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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a proposal to reduce the number of associated judges in the Superior Court from "at least four" to "at least three"?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Historic Accord

President Obama and congressional leaders come to an agreement to avert the nation's default.

BUSINESS...Page 13



New Star

Emma Stone has been on a steady rise in Hollywood.

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One of 2 suspects who choked vendor arrested. PAGE 2

$300M casino investor pays DPL arrears of $37,000. PAGE 2

RECOVERY.GOV UPDATE AS OF JULY 30

$58M of $120M ARRA yet unspent

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Federal tracking agency recovery.gov says the CNMI has already used almost $62 million but has yet to spend over $58 million of the more than $120 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money awarded to the Commonwealth from Feb. 17, 2009 to June 30, 2011.

Recovery.gov updated its data for the CNMI on Saturday, July 30.

This was a few days after the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General posted online an investigative report that says ethical and procurement rule violations may have been violated in the Fitial administration's award of a $392,406 sole-source contract to former Commerce secretary Michael Ada's company, Integrated Professional Services, to manage ARRA funds.

IPS said that ARRA funds allocated to the CNMI, including those funds allocated but not yet spent, "should not be in jeopardy due to current controversy."

» **Fitial still reviewing IG report on ARRA contract**

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who approved of the sole-source contract award, is still reviewing the IG report, having just returned on Sunday after almost a month of travel for medical reason and official functions.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment yesterday, said the IG report was delivered to the office when the governor was en route to Pohnpei.

See ARRA on Page 4

SHEFA incentive grants program faces termination

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The incentive awards for scholars of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance will likely to be stopped this new semester, according to SHEFA officials.

Board chair Jose Mafnas and board

See SHEFA on Page 4



BEATING THE DEADLINE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A crowd waits in the hallway of the Division of Revenue and Taxation office in Dandan yesterday afternoon to wait for their turn to file the monthly business gross revenue tax return and the second quarter employer withholding tax return by yesterday's deadline. Because July 31 fell on a Sunday, the tax filing deadline was moved to Monday, Aug. 1.

'FAA shutdown no immediate impact on CPA'

» **Ongoing airport projects fully funded from previous AIP**

» **Only emergency change orders for runway rehab might be affected**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The partial shutdown of the Federal Aviation Administration will have no immediate impact on the Commonwealth Ports Authority for now because all ongoing airport projects on three islands have secured the necessary funding from previous years' allocations, according to CPA executive director Edward Deleon

See FAA on Page 4

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Local

One of 2 suspects who robbed vendor arrested

Police arrested over the weekend one of two men who allegedly robbed a vegetable vendor, stole his pickup truck, and then set it on fire.

CeeJay C. Echalico, 20, a hotel employee, was arrested for robbery, theft of vehicle, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Echalico was identified by the victim and witnesses as the one who choked the victim from behind with a rope.

His preliminary hearing will be on Aug. 11 at 9am. Bail was set at $25,000 cash.

Detective Patrick Sablan stated in his report that a police officer had responded to a site near San Antonio Market on July 7 at 5:20pm after receiving a call about a theft of a vehicle incident.

Preliminary investigation showed that while the victim, a Chinese national, was selling vegetables at the back of his pickup truck, a man later identified as Echalico allegedly posed as a customer, asking about cucumbers. Echalico then choked the vendor from behind using what was described as a rope.

As the victim was being choked, the second male suspect, described as 5'11 tall and muscular, boarded the vendor's truck and started the engine.

Echalico reportedly released his hold on the victim and jumped onto the bed of the truck. The truck sped off west, leaving the victim on the ground.

While patrolling Afetna Road to look for the suspects, two patrol officers spotted Echalico running out of a secondary roadway. The officers stopped Echalico and talked to him as he matched the description of one of the suspects.

Echalico was breathing hard, sweating profusely, and was not wearing any shirt at the time.

A police officer escorted the victim to the site, where he identified Echalico as the one who had choked him.

Sablan said that he and detective Jonathan Decena, along with a Chinese interpreter and the victim, met with a witness at her residence in San Antonio on Thursday.

According to the witness, she and her child had gone to buy vegetables from the vendor when she noticed two persons approach the victim.

The witness said the skinny man asked the vendor about buying some cucumber, while the taller and bigger suspect entered the victim's truck.

The skinny man then allegedly choked the vendor with a rope and dragged him nine feet away from his truck. The suspects then fled aboard the victim's truck.

The truck was reportedly later found burning in a grassy area in Koblerville. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

23 Japanese students here for 33rd year of exchange program

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Twenty-three students participating in the Sanpoen Youth Organization cultural exchange program spent their Monday frolicking in the waters of Mañagaha, soaking up the island's sun and sand.

Executive secretary Vinycia Seman of the Saipan Mayor's Office said the 18 female and five male students, age 11 to 17 years, arrived last week for the 33rd year of the exchange program between Japan and Saipan.

"The students will enjoy swimming, snorkeling, and barbecue with some local families and six staff from the Mayor's Office," she told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview while in Mañagaha.

Last Sunday, the students held the annual lantern ceremony at the beach behind Hopwood Jr. High School where they set afloat about 200 lanterns at 6:30pm to pray for all those who perished during the war.

Seman said the Japanese group was joined by some 30 public high school students and Mayor's Office employees.

After the Mañagaha visit, Seman said the students were picked up by the 10 host families who will be in charge of them today and tomorrow.

The visiting students, Seman said, will then be returned to the care of the Mayor's Office staff, who will pick them up on Wednesday at 6pm.

Seman added that they will host a send-off party for the Japanese students on that night as they are scheduled to return home the next day.

Local bill seeks to clip powers of acting mayor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

In the wake of a Rota acting mayor's termination of the Rota Health Center's resident director, Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) pre-filed yesterday a local bill that will clip the powers of any acting mayor to hire, fire, and reprogram funds.

"My intent in pre-filing this bill is to ensure employees are safeguarded, especially those with civil service contracts, by anyone in an acting mayor capacity. This was prompted by the abrupt termination of the Rota Health Center's resident director. Other employees also feared for their jobs," Santos told S*aipan Tribune.*

House Local Bill 17-54 says as a temporary appointee when the mayor is physically absent from Rota, an acting mayor should refrain from reprogramming funds not approved or sanctioned by the mayor.

It says the acting mayor should also refrain from making permanent organizational changes and adjustments within the mayor's office or the resident departments.

"Accordingly, the Rota Legislative Delegation finds that in order to prevent any disruption in the services rendered to the people of Rota when an acting mayor is appointed, it is necessary to restrict the reprogramming and hiring/hiring authority of the acting mayor," the local bill says.

Acting mayor Arvin Ogo fired RHC resident director Crispin Ayuyu two weeks ago, when Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola was on leave. Ogo is the vice chair of the Rota Mu-

See LOCAL BILL on Next Page

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Tourism Tuesday
A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
ALL JAPAN PANDA SUMMIT 2011

To commemorate the arrival of two pandas at Ueno Zoo, famous department store Ueno Matsuzakaya will conduct the "ALL Japan Panda Summit 2011" from mid-July to early August, with Saipan-da! in attendance.

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) has obtained permission for Saipan-da! to participate free of charge in the summit, with the goal of raising awareness of the character and the Northern Marianas. The event has also been retargeted to cheer up people in the Tohoku region of Japan following the March 2011 earthquake.

A press conference and photo shoot was scheduled for July 13-14 at Hotel Metropolitan Edmond with five panda characters from all over Japan in attendance, including Saipan-da! Popular comedy duo "Harisenbon" was also scheduled make a guest appearance at the press conference.

All five panda characters plan to visit zoos in the Tohoku area to spread cheer, as panda characters are very popular among kids and families. An official website will also promote the event, which the MVA expects to attract significant attention from media and general consumers.



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This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

$300M casino investor pays DPL arrears of $37,000

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Casino investor Marianas Resort Development Co. Inc. has settled with the Department of Public Lands its land lease arrears totaling a little over $37,000 plus interest covering the period from September 2010 to May 2011.

DPL Secretary Oscar M. Babauta, in an interview yesterday, said that MRDC not only paid its arrears of a little over $37,000 but also paid the lease for June.

MRDC is also expected to pay its July rental this week, Babauta and MRDC said.

"This is welcome news for DPL. They're now pretty much up-to-date with their rental payments. This tells us that MRDC is still pursuing its casino investment project on Tinian," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune*.

MRDC plans to build a $300-million Matua Bay Casino Resort on Tinian, which includes an 18-hole championship golf course.

DPL and the MRDC office said yesterday that MRDC chief executive officer Lee Kang Yun may be visiting Saipan soon for an update on the status of its project.

So far, Babauta said, MRDC has not scaled down its planned $300 million casino project on Tinian, but made changes to its electrical and cooling system designs to an energy-efficient one.

Back in May, DPL said that MRDC could lose its land lease if it continues to fail paying for its monthly land lease arrears.

"MRDC brought their rental payment up to date. They're making good on their promise to pursue their project," Babauta said yesterday.

Another casino investor on Tinian, Neo Gold Wings Paradise, was given up to Sept. 30, 2011, to pay its land lease arrears with DPL of $211,578.96, or there won't be any further negotiation to reinstate a land lease to build a $1.6 billion to $3 billion casino resort.

Neo Gold Wings plans to build a "six-star" casino hotel and resort, a theme park, and a 36-hole golf course on Tinian.



PRIDE OF THE CNMI
The CNMI flag is proudly displayed on one of the helicopters being flown by Sgt. Jason Flores and Sgt. Bob Deleon Guerrero during their mission in Afghanistan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LOCAL BILL

From Page 2

nicipal Council.

The Rota Legislative Delegation's chair, Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), earlier said they will get to the bottom of Ogo's decision to fire the center's resident director to determine if the action is for the best interest of the island's residents and if it violated the director's constitutional rights.



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Ex-Sgt. Tagabuel pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hillary John Tagabuel, a former police sergeant who was recently arrested on allegations that he beat up his girlfriend, pleaded guilty yesterday to the domestic violence case and a car insurance scam.

Tagabuel and counsel Stephen Woodruff signed a plea agreement with the government to resolve the two criminal cases.

Tagabuel pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit theft by deception in the insurance scam case. He pleaded guilty to assault and battery, and criminal mischief in the domestic violence case.

Under the plea agreement, the Office of the Attorney General will recommend a six-year prison term for both cases. Tagabuel agreed to testify in the trial of his co-defendants, Serafin Esperancilla and Yu Jai Feng Cepeda, in the insurance scam case.

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo ordered the U.S. Adult Probation to prepare a pre-sentence investigation report.

No sentencing date was set as the cases against Tagabuel's co-defendants are still pending.

Tagabuel's jury trial in the car insurance case was supposed to start yesterday.

Assistant attorney general Shelli Neal appeared for the government.

Police arrested the 40-year-old Tagabuel on July 17 after he slapped his girlfriend on the left and right side of her face at her residence in Koblerville. He also ripped the front door's screen, damaging the hinges.

In June 2008, Tagabuel was among several persons arrested for their alleged involvement in a car insurance scam. The OAG alleged that Tagabuel and co-defendants Esperancilla and Cepeda falsified information about car crashes to obtain money from insurance companies.

The trial of Esperancilla is scheduled on Aug. 8, 2011, while Cepeda's is on Aug. 22, 2011.

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UN seeks to sweep away last traces of imperial age

By ANITA SNOW
ASSOCIATED PRESS

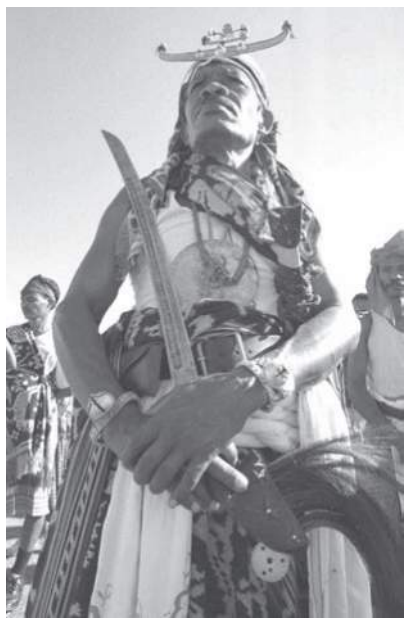
UNITED NATIONS (AP)—One was Napoleon's last place of exile. Another became home to survivors of the mutiny-stricken HMS *Bounty*. They are St. Helena and the Pitcairn Islands, flecks of real estate set in vast oceans, each occupying a special place in history.

These and 14 other territories—some would call them colonies—are listed by the U.N. as relics of a vanished age when Europeans ruled large chunks of the globe. The U.N. guided many colonies to independence, and what's left of the former empires are territories, defined by the U.N. Special Committee on Decolonization as "non-self-governing," entitled in many cases to elect local officials but all under the ultimate authority of a distant capital.

The committee is one of the few forums in which colonialism's last remaining subjects can make themselves heard. Its latest annual meeting, in June, featured voices as disparate as lawmakers from Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands, a headman from a cluster of New Zealand-ruled islets, and a spokesman for a Saharan territory that has been fighting for independence for 35 years.

Some may see the U.N. committee as an anachronism, little noticed by anyone other than those who attend its meetings: two dozen ambassadors of countries with a direct interest in the decolonization process, and representatives of the territories in question.

But Ahmed Boukhari of the Polisario Front, which seeks the independence of Moroccan-controlled Western Sahara, says its existence is vital.



AP

In this Friday, July 17, 1998 file picture, an East Timorese man wearing traditional tribal clothing stands at attention during Integration Day celebrations at the governor's office in Dili, about 1,250 miles (2,000 kilometers) east of Jakarta. The annual celebration marked the former Portuguese colony's annexation by Indonesia in 1976 following its invasion a year earlier.

"Not only do we need the committee, we need to enhance it," he told The Associated Press. "For the people of the territories, it's an essential element in their struggle for self-determination."

A century ago, before the term "Third World" came into use, colonialism was the norm. The British Empire was the world's largest, covering about a quarter of Earth's land area. Next was France.

But almost everywhere, liberation movements were springing up, and after World War II, decolonization surged ahead under the newly founded United Nations. More than 80 colonies comprising about 750 million people became self-governing.

But the last traces are proving hard to erase.

The U.N. General Assembly had declared 1990-2000 to be the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonization," and indeed, that was the decade that saw the return of British-ruled Hong Kong and Portuguese Macau to China.

With the job still unfinished, 2000-2010 became the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonization, its highlight being East Timor's independence from Indonesia. Now the world is into its third such decade.

It may get to delist New Caledonia, France's "special collectivity" in the southwest Pacific, following an independence referendum for the population of 250,000 expected in 2014. At this year's meeting, it heard from Victor Tutugoro of New Caledonia's Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front about the anthem, currency and motto the islands have chosen.

"If we can get two or three more on that path in the next decade, we can show that the process of decolonization can be achieved," said Saint Lucia's ambassador, Donatus Keith St. Aimee, a committee member and former chairman.

Also at the meeting was Faipule Foua Toloa, titular head of New Zealand's Tokelau islands, whose address included a prayer for guidance in his ancestors' language. The 1,400 Tokelau people fall into the no-thanks category, having voted in a 2006 referendum against breaking with the mother country.

To get off the list, a territory can win independence, be fully integrated into the colonial power as are France's Caribbean islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe, or become a sovereign state "freely associated" with a country, like the Marshall Islands and the U.S.

The U.S., with three territories on the list, and Britain, with 10, don't attend the annual meeting, saying the process is outdated.

The two most contentious possessions are British: Gibraltar, claimed by Spain; and the Falkland Islands, which Argentina invaded in 1982, only to be driven out by a British force that sailed 8,000 miles (13,000 kilometers) to recover the territory. London maintains that if the 3,000 Falklanders and 30,000 Gibraltarians want to remain part of Britain, their wishes must be respected.

Argentine President Cristina Fernandez, whose country calls the islands Las Malvinas, has denounced Britain as a "crude colonial power." But Roger Edwards, a Falklands legislator, asked the decolonization committee at this year's review to remove the islands from its list and ignore Argentina's demands.

"We do not feel that we are a downtrodden colony of an old Imperial Britain," he said.

Bill would expand Am. Samoa citizenship status

» Delegate wants privileges for long-time residents

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—American Samoa Delegate Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin wants feedback on a bill he's sponsoring, which aims to extend U.S. national status to more people in the territory.

He's seeking comment on the proposed legislation from the governor and his deputy, the Fono leaders, the sttorney general and senators and representatives.

The proposed bill would grant U.S. national status to a child who has lived in the territory since 5 years of age and has graduated from high school; any person who has been legally married to a U.S. national and has continuously resided in American Samoa for at least 10 years: and any foreigner who has been physically and legally present in American Samoa for a continuous period of at least 20 years.

Faleomavaega says under the current law, only people born in American Samoa or have a parent who was born in the territory, are eligible to become U.S. nationals.

He said this doesn't do justice to about 4,000 long time residents who have lived continuously in American Samoa for 20 years or more, paid taxes, donated to their churches and contributed to society in many ways.

SHEFA

From Page 1

member John Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune* that the government's poker fee collections continue to decline and may not be able to sustain all the scholarship programs being offered by the government.

Poker license fees and related revenues are the primary sources of funding for SHEFA programs, which get $3 million each fiscal year.

In July alone, the licenses for 10 poker machines were not renewed, which means a further reduction in projected revenues, said Mafnas, who is also the director of the Finance Department's Administrative Services Division.

"Based on records, we're not expecting the money allocated for SHEFA because we're seeing a steady decline in poker machines. Just for this month alone, 10 units did not renew licenses. Poker revenues are the only source of our scholarship programs and we are convinced that we need to make more adjustments," said Mafnas after Friday's board meeting.

Mafnas and Tenorio believe that, of SHEFA's three major scholarship programs, the incentive grant will likely be the first to be terminated or suspended because this is provided to recipients on top of their grant-in-aid assistance.

The incentive program gives cash awards to students who maintain a 2.5 GPA and above. This program's beneficiaries used to get $2,000 per semester. This was reduced in spring 2011 to $1,000 per semester for on-island recipients and $1,500 per semester for off-island scholars.

Tenorio and Mafnas said that terminating or suspending this program will boost the sustainability of the SHEFA program.

Tenorio expressed confidence that the community and the scholars would understand the necessity of whatever decision the board will make for the program. He is convinced that the program will have more problems if no action is taken now.

SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider confirmed yesterday the idea of suspending or terminating the incentive awards. He said a full report is still up for review by board members.

Besides undergraduate scholars, some master's students also receive incentive awards for maintaining the required GPA. Once a decision is made, Hofschneider said that the suspension will be across-the-board.

Mafnas and Tenorio also hinted that the board is assessing whether to continue assisting online students.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are only over 500 active poker machines at present. This is only 41 percent of the total active poker machines in 2004, which was over 1,400 units. In fiscal year 2010, the government recorded 579 poker machines on island.

Poker operators pay a $12,000 annual license fee for each machine on Saipan and $10,000 for each machine on Rota and Tinian.

FAA

From Page 1

Guerrero yesterday.

If there is be any impact on the ports authority, he said these would be on future projects they had proposed under FAA's Airport Improvement Project program.

Dozens of airport construction projects across the nation were put on hold since last week and thousands of federal employees are not working after the U.S. Congress failed to pass legislation to keep the FAA operating. The FAA's operating authority expired at midnight of July 23, forcing a partial agency shutdown. As a result, dozens of stop-work orders were issued over the weekend for projects to build and modernize airport control towers, as well as other improvement projects.

Saipan Tribune learned that FAA gave CPA about $20 million for fiscal year 2010, under its AIP program.

Deleon Guerrero described all ongoing projects on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian as "fully funded" up to the final phases. Among these is the rehabilitation of the Saipan International Airport runway, which is fully funded by FAA, estimated to cost over $19 million to date.

However, in case of "emergency change orders" for this project, the FAA's continued shutdown at the national level may have a slight impact on the project, Deleon Guerrero said.

"We may need additional funding to complete the main runway project, but that's the only impact we're seeing now if there's no resolution to this [delay] in the U.S. Congress. Whether we will need big or small amounts in change orders, if it will take longer, it will bring impact to the project," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Deleon Guerrero, however, pointed out that CPA will not stop work on the runway rehabilitation and the agency is still on track to meet the October completion of the project.

He said that CPA has yet to receive any formal notification from FAA relating to budget cuts or the partial shutdown at the national level.

Because CPA's operation is fully funded by its own seaport and airport revenues, Deleon Guerrero said the situation at the national level bears no impact on the agency's performance.

"As far as operation [is concerned], we don't get any federal funds for operation because we're using our own revenues. But we're hoping that the situation [at the national level] will not go that far and we're hopeful that some compromise will be reached soon so FAA can go back to normal operation," he said.

CPA has proposed several projects to FAA—worth $59 million—under the federal agency's AIP grants. Among the biggest proposed projects is the building of a state-of-the-art Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Center.

ARRA

From Page 1

"Having just returned, Governor Fitial will review the report and respond accordingly," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune.*

The IG report says the U.S. Attorney's Office for Guam and the NMI declined prosecution of the investigation, which was jointly done by the IG and the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor.

The Fitial administration and the CNMI ARRA Office have been repeatedly saying that the delay in spending ARRA funds is caused mainly by the "Buy America" waiver process, which could take up to four months.

As of June 30 this year, ARRA funds funneled to the CNMI totaled $120,242,621. Of this amount, $61,917,637 has already been received or spent. The remaining over $53 million has yet to be spent.

Of the 61 ARRA-funded projects in the CNMI, only eight have so far been completed. Three projects haven't even started; 26 are more than 50 percent completed, while 24 are less than 50 percent completed.

Recovery.gov says ARRA has created or preserved 459 jobs in the Commonwealth in the second quarter of the year.

Some of the most recent contract awards posted on the CNMI ARRA Office website include a $785,421 contract to Pacific Cooperation Ltd. for the replacement and upgrade of air conditioners at Tinian Elementary School and Tinian High School.

Also recently awarded was a $696,000 contract, also to Pacific Cooperation Ltd., for air conditioners' replacement and upgrade at Sinapalo Elementary School, Rota Junior High School, and Rota Junior High School.

AMX International was also recently awarded a $43,230 contract for a CNMI government financial management system upgrade project.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan has been reminding the Fitial administration to be faster in spending ARRA money that's already been awarded it.

Chief Judge Manglona: I leave with a heavy heart

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Ramona Villagomez Manglona, the newly sworn in Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI, tendered her resignation as associate judge in the Superior Court last Wednesday—the day when the U.S. Senate confirmed her nomination.


Manglona

In her letter to Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, Manglona thanked the two top Judiciary officials for their support during her eight years on the bench.

"I leave with a heavy heart, but I am comforted with the immediate prospect of serving your community as a federal judge in the unending effort to uphold the rule of law and maintain justice. I look forward to continue working with you in those endeavors," Manglona said.

She said she is humbled by the U.S. Senate's confirmation of her nomination to be a judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

"The confirmation now necessitates that I resign from my current position as an associate judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court," she said.

Manglona said she resigns from office as an associate judge effective upon President Barack Obama's signing of her commission to serve as a federal judge.

Manglona reportedly received her commission from President Obama on Friday. The following day, Saturday, she was sworn-in as Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court of Guam, administered Manglona's oath of office in a private ceremony attended by mostly staff, family, and the District Court.

The federal court said there will be a public investiture ceremony at a later date where the media and the public will be invited.

Joint House, Senate session to take up land lease extensions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) called yesterday for a joint session this Friday to review and consider the proposed land lease extensions for South Pacific Lumber in Lower Base and Suwaso Corp., which owns Coral Ocean Point.

Cabrera and Manglona, in their one-page memo yesterday, said the joint session will be at 2pm on Aug. 5 in the House chamber.

But the third joint session for the House and Senate may be postponed, considering that the Department of Public Lands is still seeking public comments on Suwaso Corp.'s proposal to extend its lease by 15 years. The public comment period ends on Aug. 10.

DPL said yesterday it has yet to formally receive invitation or notice about the joint session.

Manglona said they may decide today whether to go ahead with Friday's session.

Suwaso Corp. is proposing to extend by 15 years its 25-year lease that is expiring this month. It is also planning a $42 million revitalization project that will be done in two phases.

The area covered by the lease is composed of 735,023 square meters in Unai Dangkulu where Coral Ocean Point is located.

The final decision to grant Coral Ocean Point's proposed lease extension lies not with DPL but with the Legislature. Any lease and extension of lease of public land consisting of more than 5 hectares requires legislative approval.

South Pacific Lumber, for its part, is proposing to extend by 15 years two of its 25-year public land leases in Lower Base. DPL has reviewed and supports this request.

South Pacific Lumber's two separate 25-year leases won't expire until March 30, 2015 and Nov. 30, 2015.

CHC assures adequate stock of blood

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite not having a blood donor facility in the CNMI, the Commonwealth Health Center claims that it maintains an adequate supply of blood in its blood bank and never runs out of stock, even in emergency cases.

Hospital laboratory manager Albert Gurusamy told *Saipan Tribune* that there are standard practices they follow for blood bank operations.

"CHC maintains an adequate stock of blood to meet its patient needs. Occasions do arise where more than one medical episode and emergency occurs simultaneously, which may require an inordinate amount of blood usage. The blood bank, medical staff, and hospital administration have always worked together to resolve the best utilizations in managing such emergency situations," said Gurusamy.

CHC, he assured, has never "run out of blood" for patient use.

Gurusamy emphasized that CHC has its own blood bank, part of the hospital's laboratory. The CHC lab is certified by Medicare and has been maintaining this required certification since it began operations. He said the most recent inspection was in September 2010 and the laboratory met all conditions of participation, including the CHC blood bank.

Gurusamy said that CHC no longer performs blood donor collections due to the updated and extremely difficult processes required by the Food and Drugs Administration and Medicare.

"CHC previously performed blood donor collections but discontinued this service in 1999. It is extremely cost prohibitive to perform donor collections as the screening and testing cannot be accomplished on-island to meet federal standards," he explained.

He disclosed that the hospital obtains all blood products from the American Red Cross, which collects the supply from donor centers in the St. Louis, Missouri region and is shipped to Saipan every two weeks. The blood is processed by the Red Cross following all requirements of the FDA and shipped in appropriate packaging to prevent deterioration.

"CHC receives 37 units of blood in each shipment, every two weeks. There is a standard practice in U.S. blood banks for how much blood should be maintained in a blood bank in order to meet the blood needs of hospital patients," he said.

The cost of purchasing blood from the American Red Cross is considerably lower than the cost of collecting blood from local donors and then testing and processing them appropriately. Gurusamy disclosed that one unit of blood from the Red Cross costs about $260. To collect and produce the same unit of blood on Saipan would cost close to $600.

On occasion, an emergency medical situation arises that depletes the stock of blood. In such situations, Gurusamy said the blood bank takes the necessary steps to boost the stock, which include informing the operating room to postpone non-critical elective procedures that might need blood. They also call the Red Cross to release an unscheduled shipment or the Guam Memorial Hospital, where they can borrow some units of blood.

Not having a blood donor facility in the CNMI has had very little impact to the quality of service they provide, Gurusamy said. He pointed out that CHC has been purchasing blood from the American Red Cross since 1999, with little to no impact on patient care.

The biggest problem CHC has experienced in recent years is the constant pressure from the American Red Cross to pay outstanding invoices in a timely manner, he said.

CHC is still under a state of emergency as a result of not having enough funds to pay its vendors.



Crosswalks, school flashers go green with solar power

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan is now a better place for pedestrians, thanks to the retrofitting of existing crosswalks by the Energy Division under the Department of Public Works.

Deputy director Vince Attao said yesterday that the project involves the installation of solar-powered LED lights for the crosswalks.

"Three of these crosswalks are now operational. Installation began in the last few weeks," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

These crosswalks are located next to 99 Cents store in Garapan along Middle Road, in front of Saipan Grand Hotel in Susupe, and by the Gilbert Ada Gymnasium in Oleai.

The project, Attao said, also involves the retrofitting of existing school zone flashers in several sites on island.

"The school zone flashers are currently being set up and installed at certain locations as we speak," he added.

According to Attao, the retrofitting project also includes Rota and Tinian.

"This project is very important as far as ensuring the safety of pedestrians, especially schoolchildren," said Attao. "Additionally, the CNMI government will realize some savings on energy because of the solar power and LED lighting."

DPW Secretary Martin Sablan echoed this, saying the project "will address safety concerns" of pedestrians since these crosswalks are placed strategically at schools and major intersections.

Attao said total project cost, which is funded through ARRA monies, amounts to $196,260.

"We're hoping to get all these things up and running before the next school year starts," he said. "We're continuing our efforts to provide more energy-efficient measures through certain projects. We have projects right now that are ongoing, as far as energy efficiency is concerned. It's just a matter of completing the[m]."



CLARISSA V. DAVID

The recently installed solar-powered LED crosswalk next to 99 Cents along Middle Road in Garapan is part of the $196,260 project of the Energy Division involving the retrofitting of existing crosswalks and school zone flashers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Lack of veterinarian stymies dog control program

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Dog Control Program of the Saipan Mayor's Office is temporarily unable to respond to community requests concerning domestic or stray dogs up to Aug. 18 due to the lack of a veterinarian.

"There's no doctor to administer the services for the program," disclosed program director Ray B. Lizama to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, the only government veterinarian on Saipan, recently resigned from his post as secretary of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Since then, Lizama said their office does not know if Dela Cruz will continue to provide veterinary services.

"The only thing I know is he resigned from DLNR," said Lizama. "As far as still providing services on a professional level as a veterinarian, I don't know. And if he is, I would like to ask him to call me. That's one of the reasons why we suspended this. We don't have a doctor."

He added, "I would like to ask the public's cooperation and understanding to try to see our side. There's no doctor."

Lizama maintained that the assigned government veterinarian "should make the effort" to help the dog control program since it's a government program.

"It is a beneficial program for the community. This is one of the many concerns of the public," he said.

Lizama noted, however, that their office tries to respond to "very urgent matters" such as dog attacks or dog biting incidents called in by community members.

"We have various complaints of dog attacks from different villages. …The one I'm very concerned about is dogs chasing tourists and residents. Just last week, four people were bitten by dogs," he disclosed.

According to Lizama, they respond to these dog bite concerns by taking away the dog being complained of and bringing them to the dog transfer station in Chalan Kanoa. "We bring them to the kennels at our area where we store our animals, which is the transfer station," he said.

"I kindly ask people to please, if you own a dog, put them on a leash so you don't victimize anybody. And we encourage them to register their dogs," he added.

'Costly'

Lizama also noted that they do not want to keep a lot of dogs at the transfer station.

"The whole point of not having too many dogs is because it costs a lot of money to feed these dogs every day. We cannot overwhelm ourselves. And there's no space to put these dogs," he explained.

At present, Lizama said they only keep stray dogs at the transfer station since the kennels for the dog pound in Lower Base have yet to be built pending an agreement between the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, which will build it.

Right now, he said, all 10 kennels at the transfer station are "all occupied."

Adoption

Once stray dogs are brought to the transfer station, Lizama said they prepare these dogs for adoption. That mainly involves cleaning up the dogs and feeding them.

He said they currently have seven puppies and six adult dogs, male and female, that are ready for adoption.

"They can call or email us if they are interested to adopt any of the dogs. They can also come down to the transfer station to check them out," said Lizama.

For information, call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6208 or email dogcontrolprogram.mos2011@yahoo.com.

PDI helps keep ground golf alive with new donation to *man'amko*

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacific Development Inc. donated yet again more ground golf equipment to the Aging Center.

Gordon Marciano of PDI presented the 10 golf bats and 10 golf balls to the *man'amko* at the Aging Center on Friday.

Marciano said he also offered to donate flagpoles to Aging program coordinator Walter Manglona who said that the ones they're using are still in good condition.

He disclosed that before the Fitial administration came in, PDI already donated ground golf bats, balls, and flagpoles to the *man'amko*.

"PDI started the program with the ground golf group in Japan when the *man'amko* used to be down there where the Supreme Court is today, down by Marianas High School. That's when the games started [between CNMI and Japan]," he said.

According to Marciano, it was Hamasaki Yoshihiro of the Tottori Prefecture in Japan who brought and introduced ground golf to the CNMI through the *man'amko* back in the '80s.

"It started back then and we continued to have the program until the economy got slow and it was hard for Japan to come here," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Marciano revealed that the *man'amko* even went to Japan once to participate in a ground golf tournament.

While Japanese ground golf players have stopped coming to the island, Marciano noted they kept the game going for the island's *man'amko*.

"We wanted to ensure that our people in Japan continue to know that this ground golf tournament, even though they're not coming to participate, our three islands are still competing in ground golf games with one another," he explained.

For her part, Saipan Seniors Advisory Council chair Teresita Sorroza said the donation was timely as most of their equipment are either missing or broken.

"We're thankful to PDI who donated ground golf equipment so that more man'amko can play the game," she said in an interview.

Marciano encouraged the *man'amko* to carry on the tradition of playing ground golf, whether for leisure at the Aging Center or for goodwill games among the three islands.

"Keep on golfing and we'll continue to share with Japan the great ground golf game and spirit. We're still inviting you all from Japan and those countries playing ground golf to come and compete with the best of the best in Micronesia," he added.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza
Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp
Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 03, 2011, at 2:00 pm at the CRM Conference Room, Springs Plaza, Middle Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a) Call to Order
b) Roll Call

II. PERMIT APPLICATION
West San Jose Homestead – CRM Permit no. TMS-2002-X-219
a. Request for Permit Amendment
b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
c. Permit Status (CRMO/CRM Agencies)
Finafa Residential Subdivision - CRM Permit Application. No. RMS-2011-X-041
a) Revised Permit Application and EA
b) Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
c) Permit Status

III. PRE-APPLICTION
a) MBI Warehouse

IV. OTHER MATTERS

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

RITA C. CHONG - DELACRUZ
Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Twelfth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, August 3, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room, 2nd Floor NMI Retirement Fund Bldg., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
a. Call to Order
b. Swearing-in of Student Representative Mary M. Hocog
c. Roll Call
d. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments[1]

III. New Business
1. Proposed Interim Assignment as Final Regulations
2. Proposed Evaluation System for Teachers as Final Regulations
3. Proposed Evaluation System for School Administrators as Final Regulations
4. Proposed Head Lice Policy for CNMI Public Schools Grades K – 12 as Final Regulations
5. Proposed Anti-Bullying Policy as Final Regulations
6. Proposed Revised Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse as Final Regulations

IV. Miscellaneous Matters
1. Extension of Ad Hoc Committee on COE Evaluation

V. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VI. Adjournment

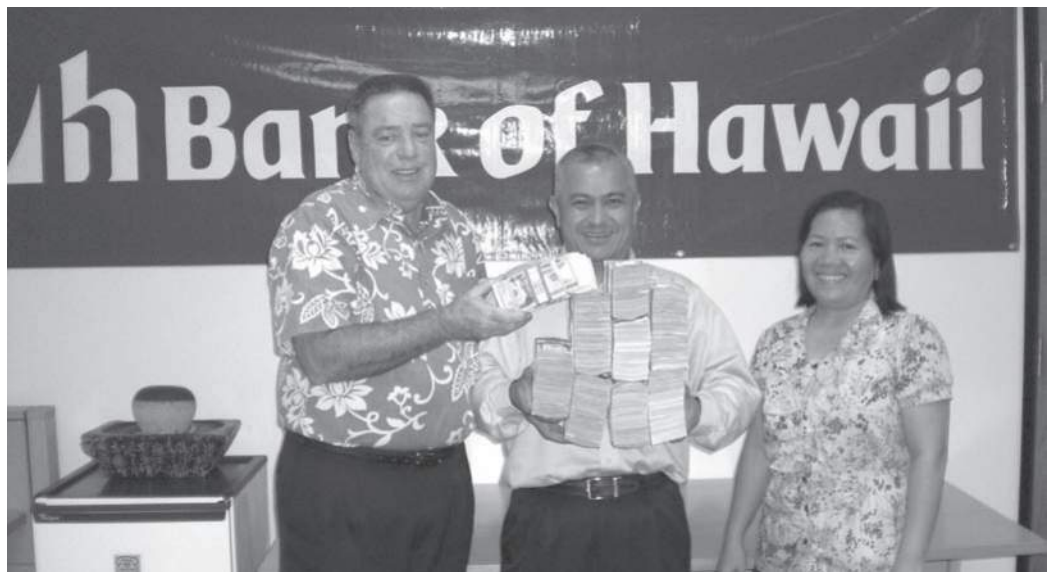
[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

$25,000 hole-in-one prize from Bank of Hawaii

For the second year, Bank of Hawaii will offer $25,000 in cash to the lucky person who can get a hole-in-one on Hole 4 on the East Course of Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort during this upcoming weekend's Tournament of Champions, TOC.

"Bank of Hawaii and TOC have had a long relationship and we continue to support their mission," said BOH senior vice president John Sheather. "We are able to see their important work since the Port to Park Pathway is right across the street from our branch in Puerto Rico."

Over the last 15 years, TOC has given over $500,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has most recently been used to improve the tree-lined traffic medians in Chalan Piao, Dandan and Susupe. Funds were also used for the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas. It was announced that proceeds from this year's TOC will assist in the repair of the Mt. Topochau stairways, railings, and the leveling of the area.



TOC

Tournament of Champions tournament director Ben Babauta holds in his hands the $25,000 cash that Bank of Hawaii is offering as a hole-in-one prize for the upcoming tournament. He is flanked here by Band of Hawaii senior vice president John Sheather and assistant vice president Lisa San Nicolas.

Ben Babauta, TOC tournament director, said, "The possibility to win $25,000 really gets people's attention and it was fun to be able to hold all that money in my hands. The TOC Committee would like to thank Bank of Hawaii for their continued partnership."

The 16th Annual Tournament of Champions will be played on Aug. 6 – 7 at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort East and West Course. The cost of the two-day tournament is $175 and includes the banquet on Sunday immediately following the tournament.

For more information and to register, call 236-2511 or www.tocsaipan.com. ***(TOC)***

KHS' Jetley joins nat'l honors group

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A student of Kagman High School has been recognized for her superior academic achievement by a national organization.

Patsylynn M. Jetley was officially accepted as a member of The National Society of High School Scholars. The 17-year-old is the daughter of Patria and Suresh Jetley and is an incoming senior at Kagman High School.



Jetley

A first-timer to a national scholars' organization, Jetley said she is both happy and proud of her selection. She looks forward to the benefits she could gain from the organization, including scholarship opportunities.

Her selection to the society, she added, validates the hard work and commitment she devoted to her studies in high school.

Jetley is also a member of her school's National Honor Society.

The National Society of High School Scholars recognizes top students and invites only those individuals who have achieved academic excellence. Membership to the group entitles qualified scholars to a variety of benefits, including scholarships, academic competitions, free events, member-only resources, and many others.

Claes Nobel, founder and chairman of the society and a senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes, said they are honored to recognize Jetley's hard work, sacrifice, and commitment that she has demonstrated to achieve this level of academic excellence.

According to society president James Lewis, it is their vision to build a dynamic international organization that connects members with meaningful content, resources, and opportunities. "We aim to help students like Patsylynn build on their academic successes and enhance the skills and desires to have a positive impact on the global community," said Lewis.

The society was formed in 2002 and recognizes academic excellence at the high school level. At present, there are more than 530,000 society members in over 160 countries.

Drinking session ends up with two pals throwing rocks at each other

An argument during a drinking session at a house in Chalan Kanoa District 3 triggered a rock throwing incident between two friends Thursday afternoon.

Darren Michael, 18, and Tolove Bokuku, 21, reportedly threw rocks at each until police were called to the scene. Neither of them was injured, police said.

Michael was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, and minor consuming liquor. He was released yesterday on a $5,500 unsecured bond.

The Office of Public Defender was appointed to represent Michael. He will be arraigned on Aug. 15 at 9am.

Detective Jonathan SN. Decena stated in his report that a police officer had responded to a residence in Chalan Kanoa on Thursday at 4:58pm after receiving a call about a disturbance.

Preliminary investigation showed that Michael and Bokuku got into a fight as they were drinking alcohol. A witness informed police that Michael and Bokuku had a misunderstanding.

Detective Decena said that, while the responding police officer was talking with the witness, Michael started yelling and cursing at the officer. The officer handcuffed Michael. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

History lecture tonight features Madrid

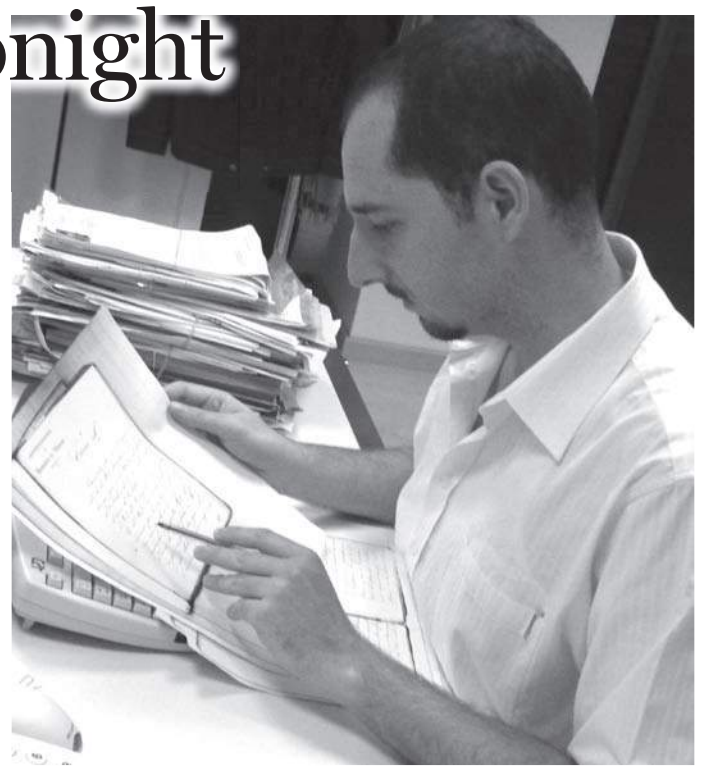
Visiting Spanish historian Dr. Carlos Madrid will make a presentation on local history tonight, Aug. 2, 2011, at the Visitors Center Theater, American Memorial Park beginning at 6pm.

Madrid's presentation "Islas Marianas Digital Archive," will highlight his work to locate and digitize thousands of pages of Spanish government records relating to the Mariana Islands and explain how they may be used to interpret local history.

Among the documents that Madrid will discuss are those relating to the settlement of Tanapag Village in 1888. He will also explain how these old government documents may be used to explore genealogies and family histories.

Madrid's research is a part of the NMI Council for the Humanities' Digital Archive Initiative, which supports projects to locate and digitize primary source documents relating to the history of the Mariana Islands.

The presentation is open to the public and free of charge. Contact Council staff at 235-4785 or visit its website at www.nmihumanities.org for more details. ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Spanish historian Dr. Carlos Madrid looks over some documents.

UOG lecture series features Vicente Diaz

University of Michigan associate professor Vicente Diaz will present, "In the Wake of Matapang's Canoe: Alternative Histories of Chamorro Catholicism and its Opposition" on Aug. 23, Tuesday, at 5:30pm in the University of Guam CLASS Lecture Hall as the featured speaker in Robert Underwood's Presidential Lecture Series.



Diaz

Vicente M. Diaz, PhD, is associate professor of Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies at the University of Michigan. Born and raised on Guam, Diaz taught Pacific History and Micronesian Studies at the University of Guam from 1992 to 2001 until he relocated to his present post at the University of Michigan.

Diaz is a co-founder of the Guam Traditional Seafarers, which helped revived traditional canoe building and navigation in Guam, served as the historian for Hale'ta series of Guam history and civics books produced by the Guam Political Status Educational Coordinating Commission in the 1990s. Diaz is published widely in the fields of Pacific history, anthropology, and cultural studies, and is currently an elected council member of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, an international association of native academics and scholars who are advancing the field of comparative native studies. Of Pohnpeian and Filipino lineage, Diaz is the son of retired Judge Ramon V. and Josefina C. Diaz of Dededo.

The presentation is free of charge and open to the community. The presentation and will be followed by a question-and-answer session. ***(UOG)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DEQ set monthly cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality monthly cleanup brigade is picking up trash at Abuni Beach/ Fishing Base in Garapan on Saturday, Aug. 6, 2011. Those who would like to volunteer may meet the DEQ representative at 8am at the beach parking lot. Volunteers will split into groups and clean north, south, east and west until 10:00 am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(DEQ)***

House budget czar to discuss 2012 budget bill on Marianas Agupa

This Saturday, Aug. 6, 2011, Marianas Agupa will feature Rep. Ramon Basa, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, between 10am and 10:30am. The show is from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM.

The Chamorro talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Featured reports are as follows: World report and program review by former mayor Joseph S. Inos and a report from Rota with correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola and a report from Tinian by correspondent and radio commentator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 2, 1999

Construction firm fined $93K for hazardous trench project

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued citations for willful and serious violations against Sablan Construction Company, Ltd. for allowing its employees to work in a trench as much as 12 feet deep without adequate protections against cave-ins. Following up on a report received in January, OSHA conducted an inspection and issued citations for two willful violations, which include penalties of $80,000, and three serious violations, with penalties of $12,600, to the construction company because of the hazardous conditions at the Marpi Road Expansion Project. The willful violations include allowing employees to work in conditions where cave-ins could occur without providing adequate cave-in protection; and for falsifying the records of occupational injuries and illnesses.

Teno welcomes power rate cut

A decision by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to lower the current electricity charges for the government is a fair move, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. He said the government has provided CUC waiver in the payment of fuel tax, adding that this is another form of public subsidy that only boosts savings for the utility corporation. "It's only fair because the government is the major customer of CUC," the governor told reporters. Last week, the Board of Directors of the government-owned corporation voted to lower its power rate from the present 20 cents per kilowatt-hour to 16 cents, which is the same rate offered to commercial users.

Aug. 2, 2000

NMI to develop subsistence livelihood

Only about five years before the anticipated pullout of the apparel manufacturing sector and still without an alternative industry on Saipan, the CNMI government is now considering the development of the islands' agriculture and fisheries potentials to mitigate possible economic impact of the garment sector's departure. However, special consultant for budget and finance Mike Sablan said any economic development in the Northern Marianas will continue to be spurred by the very volatile tourism industry, which has been the CNMI's biggest revenue-generating sector after garment manufacturing.

MVA $2 million increase in FY 2001 budget

The Marianas Visitors Authority is seeking an $8 million appropriation for Fiscal Year 2001, or an increase of $2 million from what the Office of Management and Budget has allotted for the tourism agency. Board Chair Dave M. Sablan said MVA officials have sought an increase in funding during a meeting with members of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee so that it can effectively carry out its promotional campaign. On top of this, MVA needs $8 million to implement a number of Capital Improvement Projects in the island municipalities of Saipan, Tinian and Rota. In a move to diversify its market, MVA has set aside $3.7 million in advertising for Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, United States and to a certain extent, the People's Republic of China.

Aug. 2, 2001

DPH to begin new PCB tests

The Department of Public Health will begin within two weeks a new round of medical testing on 20 hand-picked Tanapag villagers to re-evaluate results of a similar test initiated by federal authorities last year. Public Health Medical Director Dr. Richard Brostrom said blood samples will be taken from ten people detected with high PCB concentration in their blood streams. In addition, samples will also be taken from ten other Tanapag residents who have been determined afflicted with PCB-related diseases. Known as congineer testing, the second round of medical evaluation is expected to finally determine the type of PCB contaminant Tanapag villagers were exposed to.

Pollution, prostitution tarnish Saipan's image

Japanese travelers are discouraged to visit the Northern Marianas due to bad reviews presented by those who previously visited Saipan. According to a report submitted by the JAL Sales Network Co., Ltd. to the Marianas Visitors Authority, bad reviews have influenced inclinations of other Japanese travelers to visit the Northern Marianas in recent months. The report cited the prostitution activities in Western Garapan and the Puerto Rico dumpsite as main reasons why most travelers visit other resort destinations instead.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director
INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-11-046
INSTALLATION OF A NEW 500,000 GAL. DIESEL FUEL TANK AT PP 1, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced engineering firms for preparation of a new foundation, fabrication, assembly, installation and commissioning a new Above Ground Oil Storage Tank (AST), as per the specifications contained in the bid document and monitored through a construction management firm and/or a third party quality control firm, contracted by CUC.

The new foundation, tank and accessories have been designed by a U S based company and will be supplied to Saipan port. CUC will pay for the customs clearance and delivery, freight costs to a designated location at the power plant site, which will be agreed between CUC and the winning contractor. The current schedule for delivery for the new tank to Saipan is 10th September, 2011. CUC will ensure that such schedules are promptly communicated to the contractor as soon as soon as they are aware of any change in the schedule so that sufficient and reasonable notice is available to the contractor for their actions. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit (non-refundable) from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the **amount of $ 250.00 for one set**; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, until August 22, 2011.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **August 15, 2011 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Power Plant Conference Room, Lower Base, Saipan. Attendance is not mandatory.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC IFB 11-046 -INSTALLATION OF A NEW 500,000 GAL. DIESEL FUEL TANK AT PP 1, SAIPAN**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 31, 2011**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms, without alteration. Bidders may supplement this form with additional explanation, as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 30 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 24, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Managing Engineer, PG, via email - venu@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director
INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-11-047
QA / QC OF A NEW 500,000 GAL. DIESEL FUEL TANK AT PP 1, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced third party inspection firms to provide CUC or the Construction Manager (CM), "Quality Control (QC) and Quality Assurance (QA) Services" during the preparation of a new foundation, fabrication, assembly, installation and commissioning the tank and connected pipeline, if any, as per the specifications contained in the bid document.

The new foundation, tank and accessories have been designed by a U S based company and will be supplied to Saipan port. CUC will pay for the customs clearance and delivery, freight costs to a designated location at the power plant site, which will be agreed between CUC and the winning contractor. The current schedule for delivery for the new tank to Saipan is 10th September, 2011. CUC will ensure that such schedules are promptly communicated to the contractor as soon as soon as they are aware of any change in the schedule so that sufficient and reasonable notice is available to the contractor for their actions. CUC requires the Construction Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit (non-refundable) from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the **amount of $ 100.00 for one set**; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, until August 22, 2011.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **August 15, 2011 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Power Plant Conference Room, Lower Base, Saipan. Attendance is not mandatory.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB 11 - 047 - QA / QC OF A NEW 500,000 GAL. DIESEL FUEL TANK AT PP 1, SAIPAN**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 30, 2011**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms, without alteration. Bidders may supplement this form with additional explanation, as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 30 days after submission. All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 24, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Managing Engineer, PG, via email - venu@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 011 D 24, containing an area of approximately 707 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Rigel Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors for the Corporation is Ning Ning Li, Shaoli Che, and Shao Hong C. Walker.

The President of the Corporation is Ning Ning Li, Vice President is Shaoli Che, and Secretary/Treasurer is Shao Hong C. Walker.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Manuel J. Alvarez.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for expansion of their Iron Horse Auto Shop, parking space for customers' and employees' vehicular and other related operations.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 4, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intension-ña para u atkila pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I lugåt atkilon siha madeskribi komu tano' pupbliku Lot No. 011 D 24, kinonsisti årian kåsi guaha 707 square meters, mås pat menus,ni gaigi giya Garapan, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaigi na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i Rigel Corporation, i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpun Direktot siha para i Corporation si Ning Ning Li, Shaoli Che, yan si Shao Hong C. Walker.

I Presidenti gi Corporation si Ning Ning Li, i sigundu Presidenti si Shaoli Che, yan i Sekritåriu / Tresureriu si Shao Hong C. Walker.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Manual J. Alvarez.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugåt siha uniku para i hinangai para i mana'dångkulun i iyo-ñiha Iron Horse Shop, kåmpun parking para i kåstuma siha yan i tumobit emple'åo yan ottru ni mana'achuli' siha na operasion.

I teman i kuntråtan atkilon ha ekstendi gi 25 åñus, yan option para u ma'ekstendi i atkilon gi ta'lu 15 åñus.

I manmaproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durântin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt siha såsåonåo i existing structure(s).

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråta ekstension atkilon siha siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi segundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya Garapan, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di August 4, 2011 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONGOL POMWOL AKKILON-UL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól Public Law 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke issiswoow ammataf igha e tipáli ebwe tingóór ebwe akkila eghus mereel falúweer toulap mewóól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Ngáliir toulap schóókka re mwuschel nge rebwe issisilong yaar mwáliili, mángemáng me ngáre angiingi reel ifa meleil pomw kkaal reel akkilon-ul falúweer toulap. Me Public Law 15-2, e ayoor lamal aweewe kka e fisch ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilon-ul falúweer toulap ekke bwáári bwe Lot No. 011 D 24, emmwel ebwe yoor fisabwughúw fissuw (707) square meters, elapló ngáre eghus, elo Arabwal (Garapan), Seipél. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Land) bwe aubwe ghi ghuleey fischiy.

ii. Schééschél lessee nge Rigel Corporation, eew CNMI Corporation. Samwoolur (Board of Directors) Corporation yeel nge Ning Ning Li, Shaoli CHE, ME Shao Hong C. Walker. President-il Corporation yeel nge Ning Ning Li, Vice President nge Shaoli Che, me Secretary/Treasurer nge Shao Hong C. Walker.

iii. Schóól aweewel akkilon yeel nge Mr. Manuel J. Alvarez.

iv. Schóól lessee ebwe yááyá bwuley yeel reel ebwe atomwoghaló yaar Iron Horse Auto Shop, me parking space-il gharetta waar customers me schóól angaang me bwal akkááw mwóghut.

Tool aighúúghúl pomwol akkilon yeel nge reweigh me limwoow (25) ráágh, me ngáre e tipáli nge ebwe bwal sóbweló akkilon yeel bwal seigh me limwoow (15) ráágh.

Pomwol tool annual rental yeel nge ebwe bweibwogh mereel percentage-il reel méél falúw (appraised fair market value), me bwal akkayúú kka elo llól.

v. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal pomwol abwungubwungul akkilon yeel nge emmwel ebwe bweibwogh mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands), elo 2nd floor mereel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; Songsong Commercial Building, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor mereel Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands) esáál bweibwogh mwo meleil pomwol akkilon kka falúweer toulap mellól Arabwal (Garapan), Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Ammwelil Falúweeer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mwáliili, mángemáng, angiingi me ngáre ifa meleil pomwo kkaal sángi schóókka re tipáli rebwe issisolong wóól me ngáre mmwal August 4, 2011 mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands offices) elo Seipél, Luuta, me ngáre Tchúliyúl.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Lawmakers should agree on how to reopen FAA

(c) 2011, The Miami Herald

Here's one more measure of how dysfunctional Congress has become: For four years, lawmakers have been unable to agree on long-term funding for the Federal Aviation Administration, and now the agency's operating authority has expired because members can't even pass a short-term funding extension.

This shocking display of legislative ineptitude has imposed a partial shutdown on the FAA, affecting $2.5 billion in federal airport construction grants. Air traffic controllers remain on the job, but work has stopped at dozens of sites across the country where projects are in limbo. At a time when jobs are scarce and the construction industry is ailing, this is the worst time possible for a halt in funding.

All this is bad enough, but wait—it gets worse.

At a time when the government needs revenue to pay its bills, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said the government stands to lose about $200 million a week in airline ticket taxes because the FAA lost the authority to collect the money last Friday.

Does the tax holiday mean lower fares for passengers? Fuggedaboutit. Most major airlines are pocketing the money and stiffing consumers.

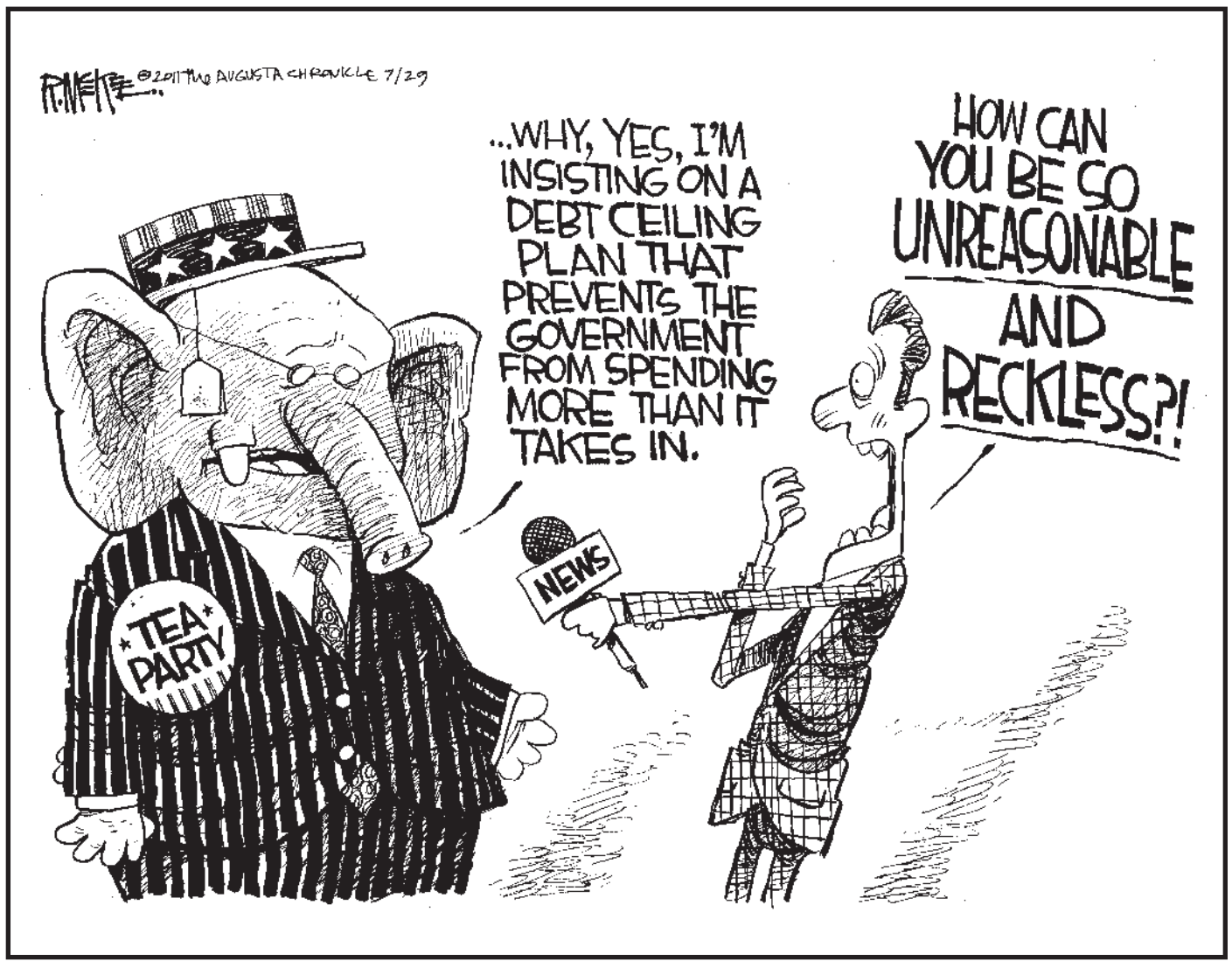
The deadlock over a routine appropriations process—which mirrors the larger dispute over the debt ceiling—brought a tongue-lashing from Secretary LaHood, who said it has put 4,000 people out of work. He pleaded with lawmakers to act immediately to put the FAA back in business.

LaHood and some members of the Senate are calling on the airlines to pass the tax break on to consumers, to no avail. "It's not fair to the flying public," LaHood said. But the best some airlines have done so far is to tell consumers that they might have recourse with the IRS when they file a tax return next year.

The dispute between the House and Senate mainly involves a disagreement over a $16.5 million cut for Essential Air Services, subsidies paid to 13 rural communities to help defray airline operating costs. Republicans contend it represents wasteful spending. Democrats say it's the only way airlines will provide service to lightly-used airports. There's also a dispute over union rules for workers.

These are serious issues, but surely reasonable lawmakers can come to an agreement without shutting down a vital government agency. Over the years, Republicans and Democrats have managed to keep the FAA open through a series of 20 short-term extension bills without leaving it unfunded.

The real problem is Congress' inability to iron out partisan disputes, a failure of governance at the most basic level. As we may yet see in the dispute over the debt ceiling, the FAA debacle shows there are real—and negative—consequences when members of Congress fail to do their jobs.



Viajes de Madrid

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*



A liberal Arts degree in the Philippines in the early '60s required 24 credit-hours of Spanish, and any level-headed student at the time resisted the imposition of a language no longer in use except among *ilustrados,* the well-to-do, and history majors.

I attended classes, memorized Rizal's *Mi Ultimo Adios* without understanding meanings, let alone the nuances, of what is evidently a hearty poem written by a very lucid mind.

Then came the early '80s when we conducted *Desaruyo Humano* (human development) courses for community workers in the Caribbean and America Sud, including Guatemala,Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, and Peru. That's when I literally kicked myself in the butt for not paying more attention to Msgr. Diosdado Talamayan (who became *Arzobispo de Nueva Segovia*) and his instructions on Iberian language and culture.

(An aside: I landed in Santiago, Chile the morning Gen. Pinochet got a diplomatic slap from Ferdinand Marcos. *Señor Augusto Pinochet y Ugarte* was heading for China from Fiji when his invitation to Manila was rescinded so he turned around and returned home in a huff. I arrived from Rio with a Philippine passport at about the same time; oblivious, was detained by the Interpol for six hours. Fortunately, English was then in vogue—economist Milton Friedman's Chicago boys were doing a radical makeover of Chile's economy at the time—so we were not deported. My destination several miles out of town was an Allende bailiwick so *El hombre de las Islas Filipinas* was an instant hero!)

We belabor this *pasacalle* because historian Carlos Madrid Alvarez-Piñer is about to present a broad picture of the Marianas' relationship to Spain beyond what is available from Don Farrell's historical narrative, in a spin tonight at the Saipan AMP visitors' center. Madrid is a featured speaker in NMICH's 20th anniversary lecture series.

Madrid authored *Beyond Distances: Governance, Politics and Deportation in the Mariana Islands from 1870 to 1877*, chronicling the deportation of Spanish political prisoners from Spain and the Philippines to the Mariana Islands, and how it impacted the lives of the islanders. One will recall that Guam was a penal colony, a destination for exiles who were deemed by the Spanish authorities to be politically unstable in Iberia, and unsuitable to colonial discipline in both the Philippines and Nuevo España (Mexico).

Shortly after France established its democratic experiment in the Third Republic and extended its liberalizing influence in Europe, Spain's reactionary authorities went on to stem the progressive influences of the New Spanish Constitution, resulting in the deportation of those involved in the so-called Philippine Cavite Mutiny to the Marianas.

We are not too familiar with the details (and we did not get a chance to review Madrid's research, though we served in the Humanities Council from 2003-07) but we seem to recall Joaquin Pardo de Tavera y Gomez, a reformist and liberal lawyer, was in the group.

Deportation to the Marianas has been one of Madrid's special fields of study, canvassing, cataloguing and copying extant documents related to the 1870 period. I am sure Carlos Madrid will regale his audience with both the minutiae and the overarching umbrella of his research. It would be well for Saipan's enlightened community to attend his lecture. Won't be there, though; self-deported early this morning!

On deportation, we recall assisting a Chinese national last year who was slated to be deported after serving a year's sentence on a felony but languished in jail for 88 days more without due process while authorities tried to locate her confiscated passport, and once found, have it renewed. It expired while felon was in custody. She sued the government for willful negligence; we tried mitigating against protracted proceedings but recalcitrant and devious AG personnel were not about to be held accountable for their jobs, let alone their incompetence by one of our able, albeit, quixotic local barristers.

Sure enough, just when she finally got the wherewithal to self-deport, ICE got the message that they should proceed with her deportation, even without the case being juridically resolved. Suddenly, the CNMI was deportation itchy! From friends in the legal profession, that seems to be the order of the day up to the present.

The Marianas hosted deportees in 1870s and that did not go too well by all accounts, though we would not be surprised if the *laissez faire* attitude of the exiles contributed to the chromosome pool on island. We are now deporting undesirable aliens, particularly those involved in "ice" traffic. A colleague not normally given to wild exaggeration estimates that 50 percent of respectable folks on Saipan had been, and some still are, into "ice," and that does not include our famed personnel in blue. So, sure, let's deport the desperate and despondent penny ante retailers. We won't have them telling on their customers, would we?

But for the deportees more than a century ago, we have Madrid to journey us then. OK, Carlos, your turn!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Low-cost airline wants to land on Saipan

By WALTER YU
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Walter Yu is the administrator for a commission called Korean Low-cost Airline Attracting Committee. The committee is gathering an influential group of people on Saipan who could support their goal, which is to attract a new airline to Saipan.

In the first quarter of this year, four among 10 passengers chose to fly in a low-cost airline for domestic flights. I'm talking about Korean airlines right now. Last week's *Korean Daily* newspaper reported that in 2008, only 9.7 percent of travelers chose to fly on low-cost airlines, but this has increased five times in the last three years and it is now at 53 percent. Low-cost airlines that have been increasing their domestic flights are now targeting the international market. Among the low-cost airlines, Jin Air has already entered Guam and is now a regular flight, which brings Guam more tourists than before. It provides $80 to $120 lower rate than the other airlines. This is the advantage of a low-cost airline and this lower fare persuades travelers to choose Guam as a destination instead of other tour destinations that they consider around Pacific and Southeast Asia.

Presently, there are five low-cost airlines in Korea: Jeju Air, Air Pusan, Jin Air, Eastar Air, and Tway Airlines. Low-cost airlines go through three steps to obtain an AOC (Air Operator's Certificate) that allows them to fly international flights, which they have acquired not too long ago. Now the airlines are in search of a best destination for them to fly to.

Saipan is a close destination to Korea and is well known as a tourist destination. It is especially known for its romantic aspects and it is a popular destination for honeymooners. So the low-cost airlines are very much interested in Saipan as a regular line flight destination. Recently, Saipan is increasing in popularity for family vacation and revisits. These two factors coincide with the factors that low-cost airlines look into the most. It is feasible for us to bring in another airline if the residents and the government will support and make effort together as a team, though this requires joint NMI and federal approval.

Realistically, Jin Air and Pusan Air are not likely to be able to come into Saipan. We have other three airlines that would be our target. We should lobby and negotiate with the airlines in terms of the agreement with the local government.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce should take the lead in forming an exploratory delegation in concert with key players in the tourism industry, including policymakers. The immediate goal is to encourage the entry of low-cost airline that could eventually branch off into serving inter-island hops.

As we openly begin synergistic efforts to improve the conduct of investments between South Korea and the NMI, we would have nurtured a lasting relationship that benefits our people collectively. All we need is give opportunity a chance. The cards of what must be done together subsequently should fall into place naturally.

Also, I believe the people of Saipan should actively participate in this matter. We should skip formalities and use a systematic way of working out these hard economic times that we are facing all together.

The Chamber of Commerce, tour agencies, department stores, HANMI, golf courses, restaurants, optional tour agencies, the Korean Association, or any other interested individuals should share the same goal. Then, who is most fitted for the position could gather to hold a briefing session then they could work as a team to receive the needed support from the local government to help the airlines that are trying to come into Saipan.

Since Saipan's local community has a limited range of surroundings, we all know each other very well. This is an advantage for us. We know the right man for the job that needs to be done. Instead of sighing through this tough economy, we should encourage each other to work on it and eventually we will achieve our goal. It would definitely mean a lot to all Saipan residents.

There is a saying, "Economy is in the mind." Depending on how we make up our mind, the result could turn out to be a success or a failure. It is not certain that we will be able to bring in a new airline just because we give our efforts, but, "Where there's a will, there's a way." We hope to believe so and work our way up step by step. There will be obstacles in our way, but history has proven that it'll answer only to those who try. Let's overcome each individual's footing and designate our course to benefit the general public. In the CNMI, tourism is everybody's business.

Letters to the Editor

'When all you have is a hammer, the whole world looks likes a nail.'

That how I felt reading Vincent Sablan's letter regarding casinos on Saipan. Clearly there is a level of ignorance amongst the local population of "how the world really works," based firmly on their current box of tools that they use to fix things with. He states how all these industries like the garments and tourism were all successful here on Saipan, and somehow he connects the dots to postulate that now a casino will also be a success. Dude, wake up.

First, ex-governator Big Flo Tenorio is only cramming the casino model down the islands' throats because he and his posse got a personal back-end interest in it all happening. More about that in a later letter. Why do you think he came out of mothball?

Second, the Tinian Dynasty hasn't contributed a darn thing to rebuilding the CNMI's economy; it still is a deadbeat taxpayer owing millions in back taxes that will never be paid, we all know that. That money is gone, baby. Rota's failed casino is another example. Clearly more of the same kinds of businesses do not mean that any of them will be successful as you naively think, Vincent.

Third, the garment industry only succeeded because you had the lucky gift of an immigration law that enabled Asian businessmen to make millions off the backs of farm girls from Hunan, Nubei, Shaanxi, and Yunan provinces of China. These were country girls who looked for a better income, and a dream of escaping China into America and had no problem working in sweatshops and slave labor conditions of the 1990's on Saipan. This enabled these garment companies to reap profits with a "Made in the US" premium label. Yes, garments supplied good tax revenue to the CNMI, but its success was not rooted in anything endemic to Saipan or its people doing a good job. Saipan contributed only a macroeconomic platform that was "given" to you by the U.S., and which became quickly abused by foreign businessmen. In fact many locals sucked that garment industry fast buck nipple dry, such as being paid to simply be on the salary of these companies to fulfill local requirements, and never did a damn days' work. Ya' got a freebie on the backs of these Chinese girls, *not* because the CNMI was successful and brilliant in business.

Fourth, tourism was a gift from the Japanese go-go economic era, and your God-given three-hour flight proximity to old Nippon. You didn't have to do much at all to attract the hordes of newly minted cash rich Japanese to get a cheap sunburn and tickle at a Garapan girlie bar. Saipan was darn lucky, you were in the right place at the right time with the Japanese tourist but that's all changed now, right!

Bottom line to all you who think a casino will save your economy, just look clearly and deeply at the reasons for the short-term success of both garments and tourism, and see how in fact these industries have actually failed the CNMI in the long run, and were not a success like what Mr. Sablan and many locals think.

Until you start electing non-locals into running your island and getting rid of half those bloodsucking American lawyers who have all set up shop there over the decades, you'll continue to sink in a ship without a rudder. Put people like Tony Pellegrino up on Capital Hill and other *haole* businessmen who know the Pacific island economics from decades of experience.

Sorry, Vincent, you may be a well-meaning, nice guy who really cares about his island and people, and I salute you for taking the time to express yourself (it means you care), but you're misguided and being fooled by your own elected relatives. It's time for your people to accept and go beyond the shortsighted limited vision the local CNMI people have and get a new perspective from the outside. When all you have is a hammer, the whole world likes a nail. Rome is burning. And finally, stop voting for your relatives.

Chris West
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dreams do come true!

When I got my first scooter that was powered by a bushcutter motor to go to work I had often dreamed of owning a big fancy motorbike. Thanks to God for giving me the vision and ability to make it happen and CDA's confidence in my idea, my dream has come true in grand fashion. I was able to go from riding a bushcutter scooter to a regular scooter and finally an entire fleet of three-wheeled motorcycles known as Trikes! God is great and thank you CDA for believing in me and my idea!

Trikes are the newest and the fastest growing trend for alternative transportation. The L&B Trike Dealership & Rental operation was created to offer our tourists and locals this new and exciting alternative form of transportation that is cheap on gas and safer than two-wheel motorcycles. L&B has been granted the "exclusive Trike Dealership & Rental Rights for Micronesia, Palau and the FSM." While Trikes are plentiful in other parts of the world like Europe and the Mediterranean, the U. S. is a new market. L&B purchased the Trikes in California and is now the only U. S. authorized dealer in this region for the importation of Trikes into the United States that has been approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The general public needs to know they should be very careful doing their Trike searches on the Internet, as there are many scams with unreal prices.

L&B has adopted a marketing model that mimics the airlines' and hotels' shift to promote sales by creating advertisement partnerships. L&B has created a group of advertising vendors in the south, central and northern parts of Saipan that will act as the primary infrastructure to support the rental operation. Trikes will be stationed at hotels in the extreme south (PIC) and north (Marianas Resort) with two rental sub-stations centrally located (one in Susupe and one in Garapan) for the convenience of tourists.

The ultimate goal of L&B is deliver quality service and merchandise that will allow us to grow and become an international corporation for the sales and rentals of Trikes, especially in the tourist destinations of the Northern Pacific and the U.S. islands in the Caribbean—opening soon!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ambrose Bennett poses with his Trikes.

Ambrose Bennett
Lil & Bro's Trike Dealership & Rentals

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

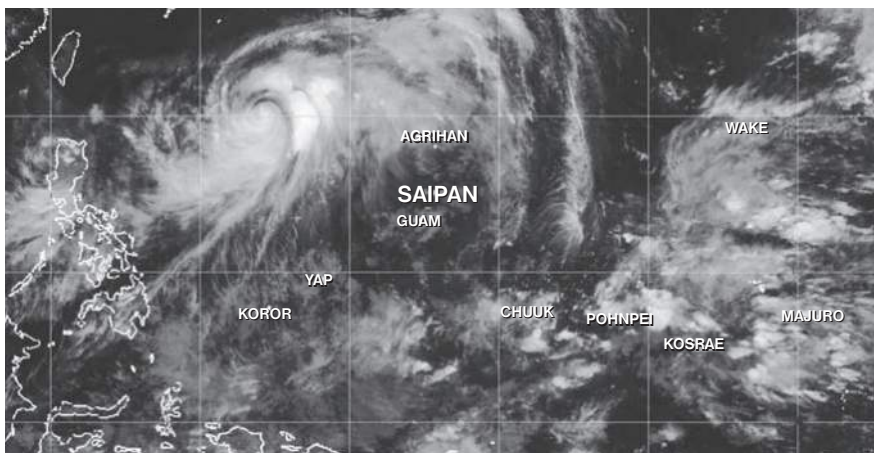
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼78
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲83	▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲84	▼75
Kosrae	Rain	▲85	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲55	▼45
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼70
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲92	▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼62
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84	▼80
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼52
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼79
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼71
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼64
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼75
Rome	Sunny	▲86	▼70
Salem	Sunny	▲86	▼54
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼53
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲86	▼75
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲84	▼74
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲97	▼77

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Muifa (11W) is centered well north of Koror near 19N134E moving northeast at 5 mph with maximum sustained winds of 140 mph. Numerous heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near and northeast of the center between 15N and 23N from 130E to 144E. For more information on Typhoon Muifa, see advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM or bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. Convergent low-level winds are causing scattered showers near Yap and Koror between the equator and 9N from 130E to 146E. A surface trough extends eastward from a weak circulation centered near 5N148E to 6N157E. Scattered showers are present near Chuuk between 5N and 8N from 148E to 154E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands and Kosrae within 250 miles of a line from 10N160E to 5N169E to 5N180. A surface trough extends northeastward from 14N162E to 18N168E. An upper-level low is centered at 16N160E. Converging winds near the surface trough are combining with upper-level divergence east of the low to trigger scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Wake Island between 13N and 18N from 161E to 169E. Another surface trough extends northeastward from 21N171E to 25N176E and another upper-level low is centered at 24N173E. Converging winds near the surface trough are combining with upper-level divergence near and east of the low to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northeast of Wake Island within 180 miles of a line from 25N175E to 19N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:28 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
8:44 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
3:37 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:06 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:00 AM	6:47 PM
Wednesday	6:00 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:04 AM	8:34 PM
Wednesday	9:02 AM	9:19 PM
Thursday	10:01 AM	10:04 PM
Friday	11:00 AM	10:52 PM
Saturday	11:59 AM	11:42 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2011

DELTA AIRLINES

DL288/287	12:45am	6:05am	NRT/SPN/NRT	Daily
DL298/297	3:00pm	4:35pm	NRT/SPN/NRT	Daily

ASIANA AIRLINES

OZ605/606	1:40am	2:50am	ICN/SPN/ICN	Daily
OZ120/119	2:20am	4:00am	KIX/SPN/KIX	Daily
OZ603/604	2:30pm	3:30pm	ICN/SPN/ICN,	2, 4, 6, 7,
OZ6033/6043	2:40pm	3:40pm	ICN/SPN/ICN	3,
OZ6033/6043	1:50pm	2:50pm	ICN/SPN/ICN	7,
OZ1087/1077	2:30am	4:30am	NRT/SPN/NRT	6, 5, 1,
OZ1087/1077	2:30am	4:30am	NRT/SPN/NRT	2, 4,
OZ1613/1623	1:40am	4:40am	HIJ/SPN.HIJ	5, 1

*HIJ-HIROSHIMA INT'L AIRPORT

FLY GUAM

5K389/168	2:45pm	3:25pm	GUM/SPN/HKG	1, 4, 6,
5K169/382	7:15pm	8:45pm	HKG/SPN/GUM	2, 5, 7,
5K389/168	8:35am	9:35am	GUM/SPN/HKG	2, 6,
5K169/382	10:00pm	11:30pm	HKG/SPN/GUM	2, 6,
5K387/212	7:20am	8:20am	GUM/SPN/NGO	4,
5K213	4:25pm		NGO/SPN	4,
5K212/213	8:20am	4:25pm	SPN/NGO/SPN	1, 3, 4, 5, 7,
5K387	7:20am		GUM/SPN	3, 5, 7,
5K386		5:50pm	SPN/GUM	1, 4, 5,

SICHUAN AIRLINES

3U8645/8646	3:00am	4:20am	CAN/SPN/CAN	2, 6,
3U8647/8648	5:00am	6:10am	PVG/SPN/PVG	1, 5,

CONTINENTAL

CO970	2:50pm	3:40pm	NGO/SPN/GUM	7, 1,
CO971	4:00am	4:45am	GUM/SPN/NGO	3, 4,

CAPE AIR

CO9316/9317	3:35am	4:25am	GUM/SPN/GUM	7, 2, 3, 4, 6,
CO9314/9315	3:55am	4:25am	GUM/ROP/SPN/ ROP/GUM	1, 5,
CO9596/9313	7:50am	8:30am	GUM/SPN/GUM	7, 1, 2, 4, 5,
CO9596/9313	7:25am	7:55am	GUM/SPN/GUM	3, 6,
CO9600/9601	10:55am	12:10pm	GUM/SPN/GUM	7, 1, 4, 5,
CO9600/9603	10:55am	3:05pm	GUM/SPN/GUM	2,
CO9602/9603	2:30pm	3:05pm	GUM/SPN/GUM	7, 1, 4, 5,
CO9604/9605	6:00pm	6:35pm	GUM/SPN/GUM	Daily
CO9606/9599	9:00pm	9:35pm	GUM/SPN/GUM	Daily

FREEDOM AIR

FL100/200	8:50am	9:30am	GUM/ROP/SPN/ ROP/GUM	Daily
FL300/400	6:20pm	6:55pm	GUM/ROP/SPN/ ROP/GUM	Daily

FREEDOM AIR

FP101/102	6:45am	7:15am	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL103/104	7:30am	8:00am	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL105/106	8:00am	8:30am	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL107/108	8:40am	9:10am	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL109/110	9:10am	10:10am	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL111/112	10:45am	11:15am	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL113/114	11:40am	12:10pm	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL115/116	1:00pm	1:40pm	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL117/118	2:30pm	3:00pm	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL119/120	4:00pm	4:30pm	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL121/122	4:40pm	5:10pm	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL123/124	5:40pm	6:15pm	SPN/TIQ/SPN	Daily
FL125	6:30pm		SPN/TIQ	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Business

It's a deal: Obama, Congress will avert default

By DAVID ESPO
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



AP

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is all smiles as he walks to the Senate floor to announce that a deal has been reached on the debt ceiling on Capitol Hill in Washington, Sunday, July 31, 2011.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ending a perilous stalemate, President Barack Obama and congressional leaders announced a historic agreement Sunday night on emergency legislation to avert the nation's first-ever financial default.

The dramatic resolution lifted a cloud that had threatened the still-fragile economic recovery at home—and it instantly powered a rise in financial markets overseas.

The agreement would slice at least $2.2 trillion from federal spending over a decade, a steep price for many Democrats, too little for many Republicans. The Treasury's authority to borrow would be extended beyond the 2012 elections, a key objective for Obama, though the president had to give up his insistence on raising taxes on wealthy Americans to reduce deficits.

The deal, with scant time remaining before Tuesday's debt-limit deadline for paying government bills, "will allow us to avoid default and end the crisis that Washington imposed on the rest of America," the president said in an announcement at the White House.

Default "would have had a devastating effect on our economy," he said.

House Speaker John Boehner telephoned Obama at mid-evening to say the agreement had been struck, then immediately began pitching the deal to his fractious rank and file.

"It isn't the greatest deal in the world, but it shows how much we've changed the terms of the debate in this town," he said on a conference call, according to GOP officials. He added the agreement was "all spending cuts. The White House bid to raise taxes has been shut down."

The House Democratic leader, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, was noncommittal. "I look forward to reviewing the legislation with my caucus to see what level of support we can provide," she said in a written statement.

Many economists have expressed concerns that the spending cuts could threaten an already feeble economic recovery. The first half of 2011 marked the worst six-month economic performance since the Great Recession officially ended in June 2009.

No votes were scheduled in either house of Congress before Monday, to give rank and file lawmakers time to review the package. Senate approval seems virtually certain; the House could prove more difficult.

Without legislation in place by Tuesday, the Treasury would not be able to pay all its bills, raising the threat of a default that administration officials say could inflict catastrophic damage on the economy.

If approved, though, a compromise would presumably preserve America's sterling credit rating, reassure investors in financial markets across the globe and possibly reverse the losses that spread across Wall Street in recent days as the threat of a default grew.

Even word of an impending deal earlier in the day by Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky sent U.S. stock futures upward. And before Obama had finished speaking, Japan's benchmark Nikkei index, opening Monday morning—at 8 p.m. Sunday on America's East Coast—was up 1.7 percent in early trading.

Not that the deal would end the political maneuvering. While eliminating the threat of default, it creates a remarkably short timetable for Congress to debate a huge and politically bruising deficit-reduction plan. The plan would require a committee of lawmakers to come up with $1.5 trillion more in deficit cuts from benefit programs or tax reform before Thanksgiving. Congress must vote on them by Christmas—or trigger across-the-board cuts that would hit the Pentagon and domestic programs.

Pending final passage, the agreement marked a dramatic reach across party lines that played out over six months and several rounds of negotiating, interspersed by periods of intense partisanship.

"Sometimes it seems our two sides disagree on almost everything," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said in floor remarks.

"But in the end, reasonable people were able to agree on this: The United States could not take the chance of defaulting on our debt, risking a United States financial collapse and a world-wide depression."

Vice President Joe Biden, who played an important part in this weekend's negotiations, agreed. He tweeted, "Compromise makes a comeback."

Not everyone felt that way.

"Someone has to say no. I will," said Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., a contender for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination.

Across the weeks, Boehner emerged as Obama's principal Republican antagonist in a contentious new era of divided government, yet struggled to corral his own rank and file at times.

At the end, though, McConnell and Biden, who looked on as Obama announced the deal, provided a negotiating channel to get the deal completed, overcoming a last-minute standoff over the impact of spending cuts on the Pentagon budget.

The plan calls for spending cuts and increased borrowing authority for the Treasury in two stages.

In the first, passage of the legislation would trigger more than $900 billion in spending cuts over a decade as well as a $900 billion increase in the government's borrowing authority.

The spending cuts would come from hundreds of federal programs across the face of government—accounts that Obama said would be left with the lowest levels of spending as a percentage of the overall economy in more than a half-century.

The increased borrowing authority includes $400 billion that would take effect immediately, and $500 billion that would be permitted after Congress had a chance to block it.

In the second stage, a newly created joint committee of Congress would be charged with recommending $1.5 trillion in deficit reductions by the end of November that would be put to a vote in Congress by year's end. The cuts could come from benefit programs such as Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid as well as from an overhaul of the tax code.

The committee proposals could trigger a debt limit increase of as much as $1.5 trillion, if approved by Congress. But if they do not materialize, automatic spending cuts would be applied across government to trim spending by $1.2 trillion.

Social Security, Medicaid and veterans' benefits would be exempt from the automatic cuts, but payments to doctors, nursing homes and other Medicare providers could be trimmed, as could subsidies to insurance companies that offer an alternative to government-run Medicare.

The deal marked a classic compromise, a triumph of divided government that would let both Obama and Republicans claim they had achieved their objectives.

As the president demanded, the deal would allow the debt limit to rise by enough to tide the Treasury over until after the 2012 elections.

But Obama's request to extend the current payroll tax holiday beyond the end of 2011 would not be included, nor his call for extended unemployment benefits for victims of the recession.

Republicans would win spending cuts of slightly more than the increase in the debt limit, as they have demanded. Additionally, tax increases would be off limits unless recommended by the bipartisan committee, which is expected to include six Republicans and six Democrats. The conservative campaign to force Congress to approve a balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution would be jettisoned.

Debit limit deal



The White House and congressional leaders announced a deal Sunday night to cut spending and raise the debt ceiling. Here's a summary of what the deal is said to include:

Framework of deal

Debt ceiling

• **Raise debt ceiling by** $2.1 trillion to $2.4 trillion, enough to carry government through end of 2012 (and thus past the November 2012 elections); **increase in three stages,** $400 billion right away; another $500 billion this fall by order of the president unless House, Senate override him by veto-proof margins; an additional $1.2 trillion to $1.5 trillion after a special congressional committee enacts matching levels of spending cuts

Spending cuts

• **Cut more than $900 billion over 10 years** from the day-to-day operating budgets of Cabinet agencies; cap spending passed by Congress for agency budgets at $1.043 trillion in 2012, $7 billion below 2011 levels

• **12-person House-Senate committee** to propose up to $1.5 trillion more in deficit cuts over 10 years. If majority of panel agrees on a plan, it would receive a vote in both House, Senate; if panel deadlocks or fails to produce at least $1.2 trillion in cuts, or if Congress fails to enact its recommendations, White House budget office would impose spending cuts across much of the federal budget

Balanced budget amendment

• **Vote on constitutional amendment** requiring balanced budget to be held by both House, Senate

Source: CNN, AP, Reuters

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AM Best affirms high rating for Century Insurance

A.M. Best Co. has upgraded the financial strength rating to 'B++' (Good) from 'B+' (Good) and issuer credit rating to "bbb" from "bbb-" of Century Insurance Company (Guam) Ltd., and has also affirmed the FSR of 'B+' (Good) and ICR of "bbb-" of Century Insurance Co., Ltd. (CIC Saipan) of the Northern Mariana Islands. The outlook for all of the ratings is stable.

The ratings for CIC Guam "recognize the significant improvement in the company's Best Capital Adequacy Ratio stemming from the capital infusion from its immediate holding entity, Tan Holdings Corp.," Best explained. "To support the business growth of CIC Guam, Tan Holdings infused fresh capital in June 2010, which doubled the company's paid-up capital and subsequently significantly improved the company's risk-based capitalization. The ratings for CIC Saipan reflect its leading position in its local non-life market with a market share of 35 percent and its adequate risk-adjusted capitalization, as measured by BCAR."

In addition Best noted that both ratings "also acknowledge the prudent investment strategy and efforts by management to enhance both companies' enterprise risk management. CIC Guam and CIC Saipan share the same management team."

As offsetting factors Best cited "the significant amount of overdue insurance receivables from both companies' strategic partner, a high expense ratio and an unfavorable geographic concentration of risks in terms of catastrophe exposures. The strategic partner is the single distribution channel of CIC Guam and the major premium contributor of CIC Saipan. The initial agreement with the partner has led to a significant amount of overdue insurance receivables, putting a strain on the growth of the admitted assets and surplus and pressuring management to decrease the level of overdue receivables from its strategic partner. The expense ratio remains high for CIC Guam and CIC Saipan, standing slightly below 60 percent despite management's initiatives to reduce spending. Going forward, management is expected to continue to tighten its expenditure control. Additionally, somewhat offsetting the favorable rating factors of CIC Saipan is its volatile underwriting performance. CIC Saipan has recorded volatile underwriting results over the past five years as premium size has been reduced and acquisition costs have been maintained at a high level. As the economy in Saipan is expected to continue to be unfavorable in the near term, the underwriting performance will remain unstable in the near term." ***(Insurance Journal)***

Nation

Responses to debt deal range from angry to angrier

By ANDREW DALTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP)— From the right and center: mild disgust. From the left: outright anger.

Americans showed a range of emotions and responses to the debt-limit deal President Barack Obama and top leaders of Congress struck Sunday, but nearly none of them were positive. Except perhaps relief that the weeks of wrangling were finally over.

Phil Waters of Anchorage, Alaska, gave a variation of the most common response.

"It should have happened a real long time ago," said Waters, a 60-year-old semiretired helicopter mechanic as he sat inside Darwin's Theory, a downtown Anchorage bar. "It never should have gotten this far out of hand."

Waters, who described himself as an "almost Libertarian conservative," said he would have liked to see a lot more cuts than the spending reductions Obama and House Speaker John Boehner agreed to.

But Kiran Mahto of Portland, Ore., who volunteered for the Obama campaign in 2008, would have preferred no deal at all to the concessions the president made to congressional Republicans.

Mahto, a 35-year-old managing editor who works in health care information technology, said the agreement is the latest in a long string of times Obama has disappointed him, and vowed it would be the last.

"I'm actively opposed to this president now. That also goes for his party since they've been silent through the whole ordeal," said Mahto, who thinks the debt deal will lead to an Obama defeat in 2012. "Cutting the deficit will do nothing to get people jobs. Without jobs and without a liberal base, he will lose."

The agreement would cut at least $2.4 trillion from federal spending over a decade, but allowed the country to avoid a first-ever debt default and extended the Treasury's authority to borrow beyond the 2012 elections.

Even the outline of the agreement, much less the details, left those without strong feelings confused and frustrated.

Brett Piper, 34, and Matthew Crosby, 30, radiology residents visiting Silver Spring, Md., from Indianapolis for a conference felt that they have probably been paying more attention to the debate than most, but were still unsure how much they could really understand.

"It's hard to know what to trust," Piper said. "The issue is made so complicated that it's tough for the average American to make sense of it."

Crosby agreed.

"It just makes me mad," he said. "I'm innately interested, but I just get frustrated."

Piper said he is a Republican but doesn't feel that he can trust the Republicans.

"It's a political game," Piper said. "And in this game, everyone looks bad."

In Philadelphia, Patrick Lucey, 25, of West Grove, Pa., had to explain the debt ceiling crisis to his friend, Enzo Amara, 25, of Montpellier, France, who just sighed.

Lucey said he thinks the large federal deficit will definitely be a burden to young people like himself who will have to pay for government programs far into the future. But he was philosophical. "It's something expected," he said of the government deficit. "It's not a surprise."

"I'll be paying bills, student loans, a mortgage for the next 30 years," he said. "I'm not going to let this bring me down. It's one more thing I'll owe. When you're born, you start owing."

Others felt that even without grasping the details, they understood the deeper reality behind the deal.

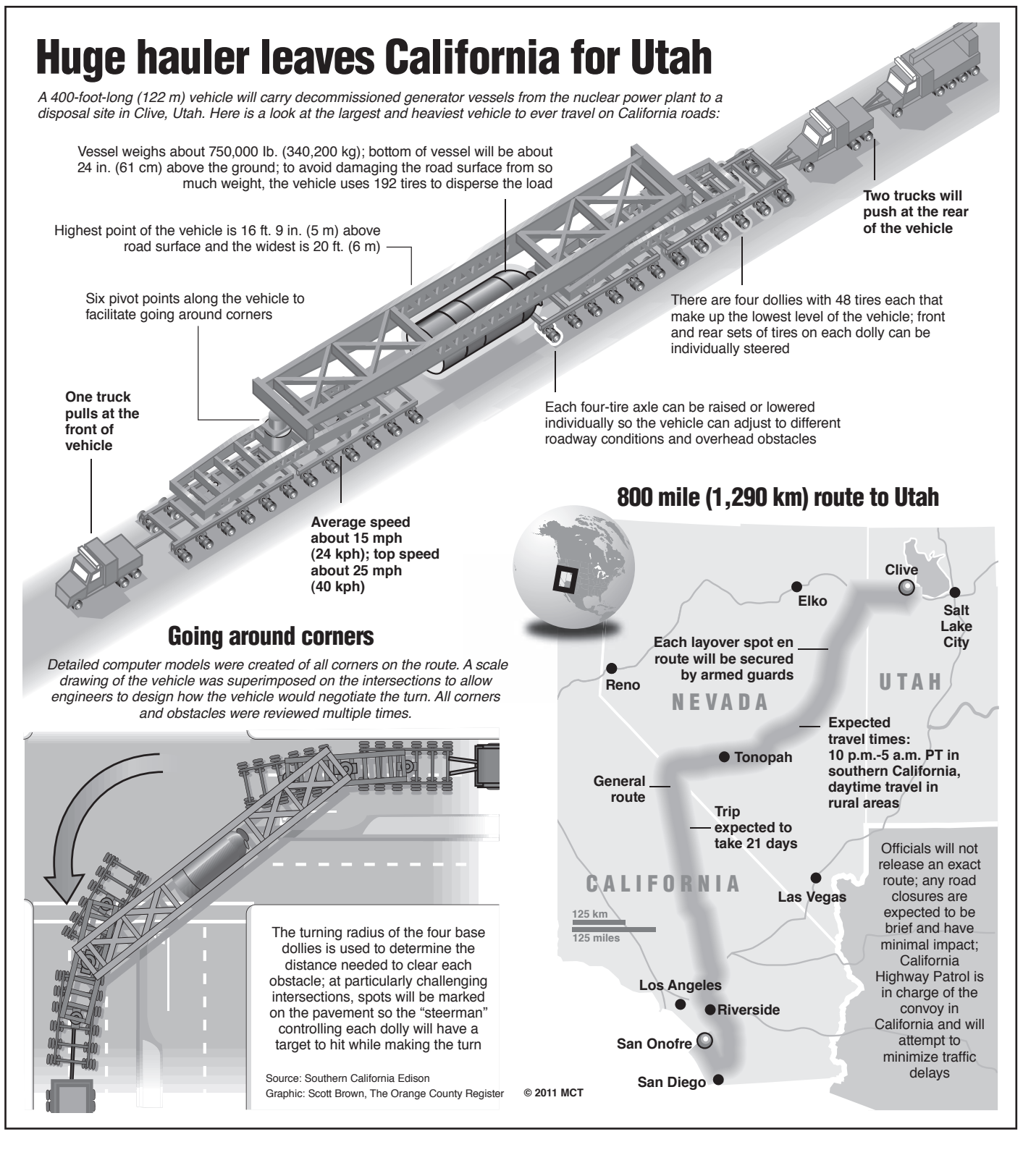
"As long as these people let the oil companies and big business do what they do, nothing will change," said taxi driver Harvey Philpot, 52, of North Philadelphia, Pa. "It's all about big business."

And Attorney John Trotman, 42, of Philadelphia, said "I feel like the debt ceiling became an issue because the Republicans turned it into one. It was an issue of creation. It was talking points for them. We're headed toward an election and the Republicans want to get Obama."

Many, including foreign nationals visiting the United States, were happy that worries about a debt default and international financial havoc could be put to rest.

Several British tourists discussed the developments in Times Square, not far from the National Debt Clock, a billboard-size digital display showing how much money the United States owes. They noted that Britain has had to cut costs over the last few years.

"For us in Europe it's a good thing," said one of the tourists, Andrew Harris, who works for an airline. "We were waiting for them to come to an agreement. It was really a scary thing to hear. What happens in the U.S. always has an impact in Europe."



'Christian terrorist'? Norway case strikes debate

By JESSE WASHINGTON
AP NATIONAL WRITER

When the "enemy" is different, an outsider, it's easier to draw quick conclusions, to develop stereotypes. It's simply human nature: There is "us," and there is "them." But what happens when the enemy looks like us - from the same tradition and belief system?

That is the conundrum in the case of Norway and Anders Behring Brevik, who is being called a "Christian extremist" or "Christian terrorist."

As westerners wrestle with such characterizations of the Oslo mass murder suspect, the question arises: Nearly a decade after 9/11 created a widespread suspicion of Muslims based on the actions of a fanatical few, is this what it's like to walk a mile in the shoes of stereotype?

"Absolutely," said Mark Kelly Tyler, pastor of Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. "It clearly puts us in a position where we can't simply say that extreme and violent behavior associated with a religious belief is somehow restricted to Muslim extremists."

"It speaks to cultural assumptions, how we are able to understand something when it (comes from) us," Tyler said. "When one of us does something terrible, we know that's not how we all think, yet we can't see that with other people."

Psychologists say stereotypes come from a deeply human impulse to categorize other people, usually into groups of "us" and "them."

"Our brains are wired that way," said Cheryl Dickter, a psychology professor at the College of William & Mary who studies stereotypes and prejudice.

When Dickter examined brain waves, she found that people process information and pictures about their "us" group differently compared with information about "them" groups. People remembered information better when it reinforced their stereotypes of other groups, she said, and when information didn't fit their stereotype, it was often explained or simply forgotten.

"That's how stereotypes get maintained in the face of all this (contradictory) information," Dickter said.

So during the first reports that someone had detonated a car bomb and then opened fire at a youth camp in Norway, many assumptions clicked into place.

"In all likelihood the attack was launched by part of the jihadist hydra," Thomas Joscelyn, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, wrote within hours on the Weekly Standard website.

The massacre was actually committed, police say, by a blond Norwegian whose photo would not seem out of place in an American college directory. As Breivik's 1,500-page manifesto emerged, calling for violence to rid Europe of non-Christians and those he deemed traitors to Christian Europe, some seized on the religious aspect of his delusions.

Mark Juergensmeyer, editor of the book "Global Religions: An Introduction" and a sociology professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, wrote an essay likening Breivik to Timothy McVeigh, the American who killed 168 people in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. It was the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil until 9/11.

McVeigh and Breivik were both "good-looking young Caucasians, self-enlisted soldiers in an imagined cosmic war to save Christendom ... and both were Christian terrorists," Juergensmeyer wrote.

Asia

Bomb kills 11 at police HQ in southern Afghanistan

By MIRWAIS KHAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber blew himself up Sunday at the main gate of a provincial police headquarters in southern Afghanistan, killing at least 11 people in a city where Afghans have recently taken control of security.

Separately, five international service members were killed Sunday.

The suicide bombing in Lashkar Gah was the latest in a string of attacks in the south in recent weeks that have included assassinations of high-level government officials in neighboring Kandahar and a coordinated attack against government buildings in Uruzgan province that killed 19 people last week.

The high-profile attacks have provoked a growing sense of insecurity in the very region where international military commanders say security has improved since the surge of U.S. troops last year. Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province, in particular has been touted as a success story from the offensive by international forces - one reason it was one of seven areas handed over to Afghan forces earlier this month.

The attack early Sunday, which ripped a gaping hole in the station compound's wall, killed 10 police officers and a child, and wounded as least 12 people, said Helmand provincial spokesman Daoud Ahmadi.

People at the site said a police vehicle was on fire at the gate. Ahmadi said a suicide bomber apparently drove a car between two police vehicles at the entrance and then detonated the explosives.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi claimed responsibility for the attack.

It has been less than two weeks since Lashkar Gah was formally handed over to Afghan control in the first stage of a plan to have all of Afghanistan under the oversight of Afghan security forces by the end of 2014. It is the capital city of a province that has been a stronghold for the insurgency and where U.S. Marines have massed over the past year to try to turn back the Taliban.

The attack comes as Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, tours Afghanistan for a second day. He has been meeting with military commanders and troops in the south, a region that has been rocked by violence and suicide attacks in recent weeks. Mullen visited a base outside Kandahar city on Sunday morning.

Mullen told reporters that the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan has until mid-October to submit a plan for the initial withdrawal of American troops. Mullen's comments for the first time laid out a deadline for Marine Gen. John Allen to submit plans for the withdrawal of 10,000 U.S. troops by the end of the year.

His decisions may hinge in part on whether the latest surge in attacks continues through the holy month of Ramadan, which starts Monday.

In other violence, an international service member was killed in a pre-dawn bomb attack in the east, another in an insurgent attack in the west and three more from a "non-battle related injury" in the west, according to NATO statements. A NATO spokesman declined to explain the cause of the last three deaths.

The statements did not give the nationalities of the dead. At least 52 international service members have been killed in Afghanistan in July, including the latest death.



TROUBLE IN THE HIGH SEAS AP

In this photo released by the Philippine coast guard, the steel-hulled M/V *Asia Malaysia* tilts to its right, or starboard side, hours before it sank near Iloilo province, central Philippines, early Sunday, July 31, 2011. The coast guard and fishermen rescued about 170 people who were on board the 2,400-ton passenger ship. The cause of the problem was not immediately clear.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippine troops hunt Abu Sayyaf despite Ramadan

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials say the military will continue to hunt for Abu Sayyaf militants who killed seven marines last week but they will take care not to disrupt the observance of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Regional military commander Lt. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer says troops will focus their manhunt and assaults on militants away from Muslim communities observing Monday's start of Ramadan. The marines were killed Thursday in a clash in southern Sulu province. Two of the marines were beheaded. Another 26 were wounded. President Benigno Aquino III has ordered troops to ensure the al-Qaida-linked militants are brought to justice. Aquino warned: "Mark my words, to those of you who perpetrated this atrocity, know that you are now No. 1 on my radar."

Vietnam War-era shell explodes, killing 3 farmers

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A Vietnam War-era artillery shell has exploded, killing three farmers who were cutting it up for scrap metal in central Vietnam. Police say two of the men died at the scene and another died on the way to a hospital following the incident Saturday. Tieu Viet Thanh, police chief in Binh Chau village in Quang Ngai province, said Monday that the men, who were aged 52 to 55, had collected the 105-millimeter shell near a beach in the village. The village, a former stronghold of North Vietnamese communist forces, suffered bombardment and artillery fire from American and South Vietnamese forces during the war. Vietnamese government figures show unexploded ordnance has killed more than 42,000 people and wounded some 62,000 since the war ended in 1975.

Thai crown prince offers to settle plane dispute

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's crown prince is offering to use his personal assets to settle a dispute with a German company that had a plane he uses impounded as part of a long-running battle with the Thai government. German authorities seized the Boeing 737 used by Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn this month as part of an ongoing dispute over payments between German construction company Walter Bau AG and the Thai government. The company says the plane belongs to the government. Thailand says it is the property of Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn. A statement issued late Sunday by the crown prince's office said he did not want relations between the two nations to suffer, so "has granted his personal assets to be used in solving the dispute."

Australian foreign minister grounded by surgery

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A cardiologist says Australia's frenetic foreign minister will be grounded for two months while he recovers from successful open heart surgery. Kevin Rudd has been dubbed "Minister for Foreign Air Fares" in the media because of his hectic schedule. He underwent an aortic valve transplant on Monday in a hospital in his hometown of Brisbane. It is the 53-year-old former prime minister's second valve transplant. The first took place in 1993. Cardiologist Malcolm Davison told reporters Monday's four-hour operation was a success. Davison says Rudd is expected to a complete recovery in eight weeks.

Strong earthquake strikes off Papua New Guinea

SYDNEY (AP)—A strong earthquake has struck off the coast of the Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea. There are no immediate reports of damage or injuries and no tsunami alert has been issued. The U.S. Geological Survey says the magnitude-6.8 quake struck Monday 81 miles (131 kilometers) east of the town of Wewak at a depth of 10 miles (16 kilometers). The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center did not issue a tsunami alert. Papua New Guinea lies on the "Ring of Fire." The region is an arc of earthquake and volcanic zones that stretches around the Pacific Rim and where about 90 percent of the world's quakes occur.

Strong typhoon kills 4 in Philippines, moves away

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A powerful typhoon is blowing away from the northern Philippines after killing at least four people even though it did not make landfall.

Office of Civil Defense chief Benito Ramos says slow-moving Typhoon Muifa was packing sustained winds of 108 miles (175 kilometers) per hour and gusts of 130 mph (210 kph). It is moving away from northern Luzon Island's eastern coast Monday toward southern Taiwan and Japan.

Ramos says two fishpond workers drowned when their boat overturned north of Manila. Two children also died in a landslide amid fierce rain and wind in a sand quarrying site in central Bohol province over the weekend.

Muifa roared toward the Philippines on Thursday as Tropical Storm Nock-ten was blowing out after leaving 57 people dead.

Official: NKorea wants nuke talks to resume soon

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Monday that it wants to see nuclear disarmament talks resume soon "without preconditions"—the first official word from Pyongyang since a senior North Korean diplomat visited New York last week for talks with U.S. officials.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Pyongyang is prepared to carry out a 2005 agreement signed by six nations on dismantling North Korea's nuclear program in exchange for aid, the state-run Korean Central News Agency reported.

North Korea bolted from the six-nation talks in April 2009 after the United Nations condemned Pyongyang for launching a long-range rocket considered a violation of a ban on nuclear and missile-related activity.

North Korea's first vice foreign minister, Kim Kye Gwan, visited New York last week at Washington's invitation for talks with President Barack Obama's special representative for North Korea, Stephen Bosworth, to discuss restarting the disarmament negotiations.

Officials conducted an "in-depth discussion" on issues such as improving U.S.-North Korean relations and ensuring stability on the Korean peninsula, said the spokesman, who was not named. He also said his country hopes the disarmament process begins again "at an early date."

The talks in New York took place after the nuclear envoys of the two Koreas met last month during a regional security forum in Indonesia, their first meeting in years, and agreed to push for the resumption of six-party dialogue.

The six-party talks group the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia. They last were held in December 2008.

The Korean peninsula remains in a technical state of war because the three-year conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty, in 1953.

After a decade of warming ties, tensions have been high since South Korean President Lee Myung-bak took office in 2008 seeking to link aid to nuclear disarmament.

World

Scores die as Syrian forces attack defiant cities

By ZEINA KARAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian security forces backed by tanks and snipers launched a ferocious assault on defiant cities and towns, killing at least 70 people and possibly many more as the regime raced to crush dissent ahead of Ramadan. Corpses littered the streets after a surge in violence that drew widespread international condemnation.

Estimates of Sunday's death toll, which were impossible to verify, ranged from around 75 people to nearly 140 on a day when the attacks began before dawn and witnesses said they were too frightened to collect corpses from the streets.

The worst carnage was in Hama, the scene of a 1982 massacre by President Bashar Assad's late father and predecessor and a city with a history of defiance against 40 years of Assad family rule. Hospitals there were overwhelmed with bloodied casualties, suggesting the death toll could rise sharply, witnesses said.

President Barack Obama called the reports "horrifying" and said Assad is "completely incapable and unwilling" to respond to the legitimate grievances of the Syrian people.

Ramadan, which begins Monday, will present a critical test for the government, which has unleashed deadly firepower since March but still has not been able to put down the revolt. Daily demonstrations are expected to surge during the holy month, when crowds gather in mosques each evening after the dawn-to-dusk fast.

Though the violence has so far failed to blunt the protests, the Syrian government appears to be hoping it can frighten people from taking to the streets during Ramadan. The protesters are promising to persevere.

Having sealed off the main roads into Hama almost a month ago, army troops in tanks pushed into the city from four sides before daybreak. Residents shouted "God is great!" and threw firebombs, stones and sticks at the tanks, residents said.

By mid-morning, the city looked like a war zone, residents said. The crackle of gunfire and thud of tank shells echoed across the city, and clouds of black smoke drifted over rooftops.

"It looks like Beirut," said Hama resident Saleh Abu Yaman, likening his hometown to the Lebanese capital that still bears the scars of nearly two decades of civil war.

Syria has banned most foreign media and restricted coverage, making it difficult to confirm events on the ground. But interviews with witnesses, protesters and activists painted a grim picture Sunday of indiscriminate shelling and sniper fire as residents fought back by erecting barricades and throwing firebombs at their assailants.

It appeared the regime was making an example of Hama, a religiously conservative city about 130 miles (210 kilometers) north of the capital, Damascus. The city largely has fallen out of government control since June as residents turned on the regime and blockaded the streets against encroaching tanks.

Rebels say they unmasked secret pro-Gadhafi group



AP

Relatives visit Wael Shaari, a wounded rebel fighter in the Al-Jala hospital in the rebel-held Benghazi, Libya, Sunday, July 31, 2011. Libya's rebels overran the base of a rogue faction suspected of breaking pro-Gadhafi fighters out of an opposition prison, a rebel spokesman said Sunday, escalating concerns of cracks in the rebel movement following the death of their chief military commander.

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—Libyan rebel leaders said their forces hunted down and clashed with supporters of Moammar Gadhafi who had been posing as rebel fighters to infiltrate the opposition's eastern stronghold. The overnight battle killed four from each side and added to a sense of crisis within the rebel movement.

Libya's shaken rebels are trying to rid their ranks of enemies after the assassination last week of their military chief, Abdel-Fattah Younis. The leadership insists the slaying was the work of Gadhafi's regime, but several witnesses have said Younis was killed by fellow rebels.

As officials pieced together events leading up to Sunday's gunbattle, they announced that a faction of fighters called al-Nidaa was actually made up of Gadhafi loyalists posing as rebels. The revelation could raise questions about the loyalty of other rebel factions and sap the movement of much-needed unity in its push to topple Gadhafi nearly six months after the revolt began.

Suspicions about al-Nidaa were confirmed, a rebel security leader said, when intelligence officials determined the group was behind two prison breaks on Friday in the rebels' de facto capital of Benghazi. The prison breaks freed 200 to 300 inmates, including pro-Gadhafi mercenaries, fighters and other regime loyalists.

"These people took advantage of the chaos that resulted from the killing of Younis and entered and attacked the military prison and the (civilian) Kuwaitiya prison," said the rebel's deputy interior minister, Mustafa al-Sagezli.

On Sunday before dawn, rebel forces tracked al-Nidaa members to a factory where they were hiding out and sent in negotiators to try to persuade them to surrender. When they refused, the rebel units besieged the factory, killing four of the rebels, said rebel Information Minister Mahmoud Shammam.

A battlefield commander who participated in the operation, Ismail Salabi, said four of those posing as rebels were also killed and 25 were captured. He described them as Libyans from the southern part of the country who belonged to the Gadhafi Brigades.

"This is a hard hit for the fifth column," he said.

Rebel forces also seized 40 of the freed prisoners, who were found hiding out with the fighters.

Talk of a fifth column—a group secretly sympathetic to the enemy—adds to the disarray that was set off with Thursday's killing of the chief rebel commander, Younis, in still mysterious circumstances. The leadership says authorities had arrested him on suspicion of mismanaging forces under his command and that gunmen attacked while he was being transported from one location to another under heavy guard.

Several rebels who witnessed the attack, however, said he was killed by his own side. Younis was Gadhafi's interior minister before defecting to join the rebels.

In the Nafusa mountains of western Libya near the Tunisian border, rebel forces said they were making gains in their push against Gadhafi forces.

AP: Insanity ruling not likely in Norway

OSLO, Norway (AP)—It's unlikely that the right-wing extremist who admitted killing dozens in Norway last week will be declared legally insane because he appears to have been in control of his actions, the head of the panel that will review his psychiatric evaluation told The Associated Press.

The decision on Anders Behring Breivik's mental state will determine whether he can be held criminally liable and punished with a prison sentence or sent to a psychiatric ward for treatment.

The July 22 attacks were so carefully planned and executed that it would be difficult to argue they were the work of a delusional madman, said Dr. Tarjei Rygnestad, who heads the Norwegian Board of Forensic Medicine.

In Norway, an insanity defense requires that a defendant be in a state of psychosis while committing the crime with which he or she is charged. That means the defendant has lost contact with reality to the point that he's no longer in control of his own actions.

"It's not very likely he was psychotic," Rygnestad told the AP.

The forensic board must review and approve the examination by two court-appointed psychiatrists before the report goes to the judge hearing the case. The judge will then decide whether Breivik can be held criminally liable.

Rygnestad told the AP a psychotic person can only perform simple tasks. Even driving from downtown Oslo to the lake northwest of the capital, where Breivik opened fire at a political youth camp, would be too complicated.

"If you have voices in your head telling you to do this and that, it will disturb everything, and driving a car is very complex," Rygnestad said.

"How he prepared" for the rampage - meticulously acquiring the materials and skills he needed to carry out his attack while maintaining silence to avoid detection - argues against psychosis, Rygnestad added.

By his own account, the 32-year-old Norwegian spent years plotting the attack. On July 22, he set off a car bomb that killed eight people in downtown Oslo's government district, then drove north to a youth camp on Utoya, a small lake island set amid a quiet countryside of pines and spruces.

There, he spent 90 minutes executing 69 people, mostly teenage members of the youth wing of Norway's governing Labor Party.

In a 1,500-page manifesto released just before the attacks, Breivik describes his two-pronged attack as the opening salvos of a new crusade that, by 2083, will purge Europe of Muslims and the "cultural Marxists" he complains are letting them have the run of the continent.

Breivik, who is being held pending trial, has admitted to the facts of the case, but denies criminal guilt because he believes the massacre was necessary to save Norway and Europe, his defense attorney Geir Lippestad said, hinting at a possible insanity defense.

"This whole case has indicated that he's insane," Lippestad told reporters last week.

Lippestad did not return calls over the weekend seeking reaction to Rygnestad's comments.

On Sunday, a Twitter account under Breivik's name appeared to be hacked into.

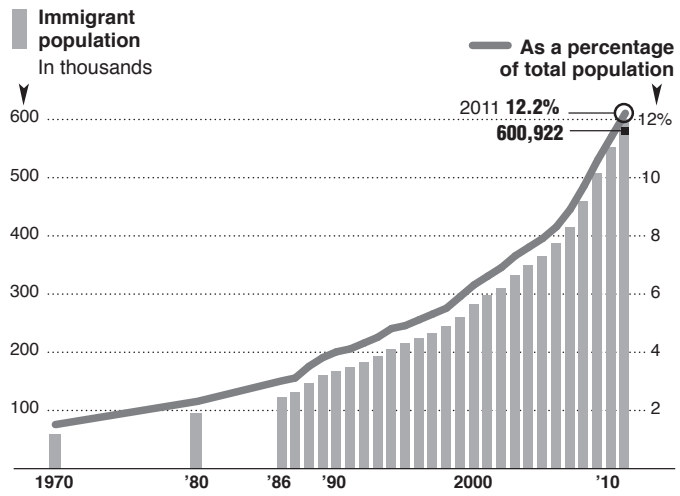
"This twitter account has been seized by (hashtag) NORIA" and "this twitter account will be deleted soon," two of the postings said.

"We want Anders to be forgotten. Labels like "monster", or "maniac" won't do either. Media should call him pathetic; a nothing. (hashtag) Forgethim," read another tweet. The tweets were deleted later.

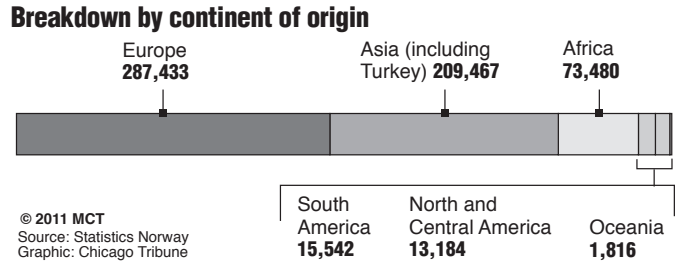
Previously, the account had only one tweet, on July 17, loosely citing English philosopher John Stuart Mill: "One person with a belief is equal to the force of 100,000 who have only interests."

Norwegian immigration increase

The radical views of the suspect in the attacks in Oslo, Norway, reflect a growing resentment toward demographic changes in some quarters.



Breakdown by continent of origin



© 2011 MCT
Source: Statistics Norway
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

Focus

China's military flexes its muscle

By TOM VANDEN BROOK and CALUM MACLEOD
USA TODAY

BEIJING—Taxi driver Jin Yinjian has some advice for those alarmed by China's increasingly muscular military, including its first ever aircraft carrier: Get used to the flexing.

"I am proud we will have our first aircraft carrier," Jin says. "It's a sign of China's growing strength, as all great countries should have aircraft carriers."

As the Pentagon plans for U.S. forces to exit Iraq and Afghanistan, it is keeping one eye trained on the rising threat in the East. For two decades China has been adding large numbers of warships, submarines, fighter jets and—more significantly—developing offensive missiles capable of knocking out U.S. stealth aircraft and the biggest U.S. naval ships, including aircraft carriers.

At the same time, China has announced that its territorial waters extend hundreds of miles beyond its shores, well into what its neighbors and the United States consider international waters. It has installed more than 1,000 ballistic missiles aimed at Taiwan, a democratic island nation and U.S. ally. Vietnam, the Philippines and Japan all have complained to the United States about confrontations on the high seas with China.

China says it is simply developing defensive weapons and protecting its interests. But military analysts say the United States appears to be taking a different view, citing the Pentagon's development of a new class of bombers that can fly for long periods outside of the reach of radar.

The Long Range Strike Bomber "is a deterrent to those who would seek to deny our access," says Air Force Maj. Gen. Noel Jones, director of operational capability requirements for the Air Force.

Jones doesn't mention China as the potential adversary for the bomber. He doesn't have to, says Roger Cliff, an independent defense researcher, specialist on China and former Pentagon official.

"China is one of the countries that they certainly have in mind for this bomber," Cliff says. "China's offensive capability will be steadily growing for the next decade. By the end of this decade, we really can't just count on fending off the blows. They will be able to deliver ballistic and cruise missile attacks."

China has seen phenomenal growth in wealth since it turned away from Marxist economic policies in the 1980s and toward capitalism. Ever increasing portions of that money, obtained in part from Western consumers, has gone to the People's Liberation Army, the Pentagon says.

Since 1989, China's defense spending has increased by nearly 13 percent annually, according to the Department of Defense 2010 Annual Report to Congress. In March it announced its annual budget would be $78.6 million.

U.S. defense spending dwarfs that figure. The fiscal 2012 Pentagon budget request is $676 billion. However, the American Enterprise Institute, a think tank focusing on the military, has said the U.S. military is underfunded and cannot counter China's threat to U.S. allies in East Asia with declining defense spending, as some in Congress are seeking as part of a deal to raise the ceiling on the national debt.

Although the USA spends more, it suggests China's real defense spending approaches $300 billion. And all of that spending is concentrated in one region, East Asia, while the U.S. spending is spread out over many regions of the world.

The previous peak in U.S. defense spending was an inflation-adjusted $517 billion in 1985. It then fell in real terms the next 15 years but jumped after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, growing an average 4.4 percent annually. Fifty years ago, defense spending accounted for 47 percent of total federal spending. Today, it accounts for 19 percent, according to the White House Office of Management and Budget.

The United States has far more ships and warplanes worldwide, but in just two decades China has created the largest force of submarines and amphibious warfare ships in Asia. Its air force has added hundreds of fighter jets comparable to U.S. F-15s and F-16s. This year China's military announced it had successfully tested a military fighter jet—the J-20—that based on video appears to have radar-evading stealth characteristics.

China also announced it is about to launch its first aircraft carrier and is developing an anti-ship missile that can strike from 900 miles away, according to the Pentagon report.

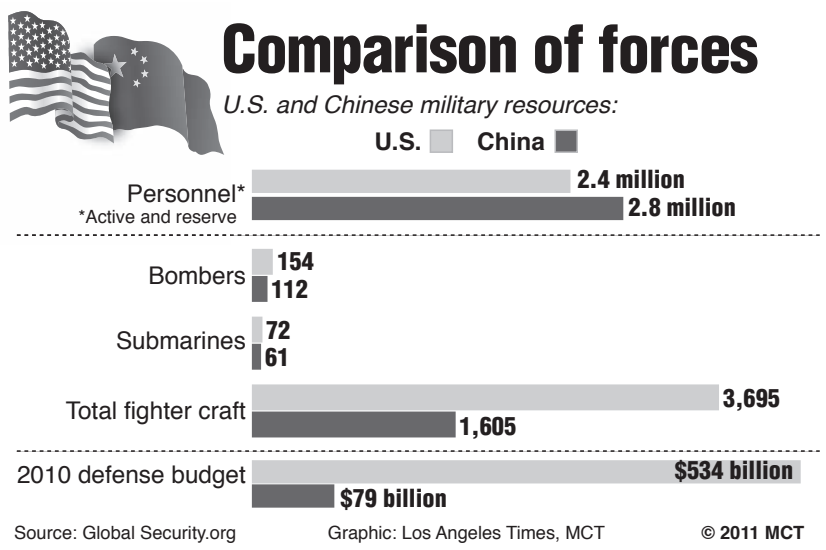
As its military might increases, China has been ramping up confrontations with U.S. allies in the South China Sea and even against U.S. ships in the Yellow Sea. The South China Sea is a vast area of more than 1 million square miles that may contain sizable amounts of oil and natural gas.

Twice since May, Chinese military boats have cut cables used by Vietnamese ships to conduct seismic tests of the sea bottom, Vietnam officials say. In March, two Chinese ships threatened a Filipino ship exploring for gas, the Philippines government says.

Vietnam and the Philippines say energy-hungry China is harassing their efforts to explore for oil and gas. Last fall a Chinese trawler collided with two Japanese patrol boats near islands in the East China Sea claimed by both countries. And Taiwan has complained to the State Department of veiled threats of invasion as well as China's firing of ballistic missiles over the Taiwan Strait.

The world has taken notice of China's new military posture, according to a poll released July14 by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project. The poll found that 15 of 22 nations say China either will replace or already has replaced the United States as the world's leading superpower. Majorities or pluralities in all but four of the nations surveyed say China's increasing military might is a bad thing.

China's vice foreign minister Cui Tiankai warned recently that the accusing nations are "playing with fire" and said he hoped the United States stays out of the fray. China has called for negotiations to resolve the disputes that would not include the United States.



Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has expressed concern over China's actions. In a trip earlier this month to Beijing, he said China must respect freedom of navigation.

"We are very anxious to see that ... the sea lanes stay open," he said. "The U.S. is not going away."

China is acting as if it wants the United States to go away, analysts say.

Andrew Krepinevich, president of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, an independent policy research institute, says China does not want war with the United States.

"What China does want, apparently, is to shift the military balance in the Western Pacific so that the United States will not be able to provide credible military support to longtime security partners such as Japan, South Korea and Taiwan," according to Krepinevich, who had a 21-year career in the Army.

All three nations provide vital ports and bases in the Pacific to the United States, preventing China from pressuring these democratic allies to accommodate the communist dictatorship's foreign policy aims worldwide out of fear of attack, Krepinevich said. The Soviet Union tried the same thing in Western Europe, he said. He called the situation a "cloud" on the national security horizon that incoming Defense Secretary Leon Panetta cannot ignore.

So what to do about it? Some analysts say the U.S. military should be most concerned about China's development of weapons that would block the U.S. military from the region. These can be long-range missiles that could destroy an aircraft carrier at sea, or be used to target bases on islands, such as the one operated by the United States on Guam.

"The anti-access ... approach is one of forcing U.S. forces to attack from much longer distances," says Jan van Tol, a military analyst at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments and a retired U.S. Navy captain. "The greatest attention has been paid to the anti-ship ballistic missile that, if it were to become operationally effective, would give China a long-range weapon against the Navy's aircraft carriers."

Carriers are the backbone of U.S. military power abroad, allowing attack jets to operate off virtually any coast in the world. China's buildup would allow it to essentially fence off a portion of the Pacific from U.S. forces and allow it to act with a freer hand against American allies in the region.

"There's a lot of stuff that China seems to be acquiring for no obvious reasons," van Tol says.

China "never intends to threaten any nation," Defense Minister Liang Guanglie told fellow Asian defense ministers at a recent "Shangri-La Dialogue" on security in Singapore. Not everyone in China's neighborhood buys that, says Arthur Ding, a China military affairs expert at Taiwan's National Chengchi University, who attended the forum.

As China continues its large and comprehensive military modernization, "China just cannot convince the neighboring countries" of its peaceful intentions, he says.

One clue to China's strategic intentions will be where Beijing deploys its first aircraft carrier as early as the end of 2011, Ding says.

"If it is in the South China Sea, off the Guangdong coast, then the so-called 'China threat' will rise again," he says, because Asian nations and the USA will see it as an aggressive message to them.

Beijing has long threatened Taiwan with invasion if it formally declares independence. Some analysts say China's buildup is largely in preparation for the conquest of Taiwan, which has never been under Communist rule, and only military intervention by the USA could stop it if China made such a move.

China's growing presence in the South China Sea worries Ding but he does not see an invasion. "It's probably unlikely, but the possibility is that (Taiwan's) oil route might be somewhat threatened" by Beijing, he says.

Meanwhile, the USA is moving forward on developing long-range, stealthy U.S. aircraft capable of penetrating modern air defense, including those in China.

The Air Force plans to spend $197 million this year to design a new, radar-evading bomber. It may be flown by pilots, or remote control, allowing it to stay aloft for long periods without refueling. The Air Force hopes to have it flying missions by the mid-2020s.

With mid-air refueling, the warplane could circle outside the reach of Chinese air defense, positioned to strike.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Navy also is testing an unmanned, radar-cloaked attack plane that can be launched from an aircraft carrier. The Navy refers to the plane as the Unmanned Carrier Launched Surveillance and Strike system, or UCLASS.

Carriers capable of launching unmanned bombers could operate outside the range of the anti-access missiles China is developing, van Tol says. Those bombers could be launched in safe water and re-fueled before attacking, he says. "All of a sudden, carriers are back in play," he says.

Despite the concerns, China says it is not trying to end America's influence in East Asia.

"Our efforts to grow our economy is to ensure that the 1.3 billion people are better off," Gen. Chen Bingde, chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army, said during a recent visit to the Pentagon. "We do not want to use the money to buy equipment or advanced weapons system to challenge the United States."

In Beijing, shopkeeper Zhang Kexin says he supports the Chinese military buildup, but only for defensive purposes.

"We were undeveloped economically, and our military was weak, so we were easily humiliated," says Zhang, 50, at his grocery store. "Now we are strong and I am proud of that strength."

Even so, Zhang says, China has no need for an aircraft carrier.

"Its real meaning is symbolic not practical, but it is an offensive weapon, and unnecessary," Zhang says. "And it costs millions of dollars just to start it up. That money would be better spent on rural education and health care."

Tom Vanden Brook reported from Washington.

Overdrive

2011 Lexus CT 200h meshes luxury, fuel economy

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT



MCT

The new Lexus CT 200h, the new gas-electric 5-door hatchback from Toyota's luxury brand, is 2 inches shorter than a Toyota Matrix hatchback and is available only in hybrid form.

Can a small car be a luxury car? Manufacturers who produce high-end brands are struggling to create products that are both small and exclusive. After all, you can get leather and a navigation system on a Ford Fiesta.

Look no further than such cars as the BMW 1 Series and Audi A3, both of which are struggling to find mass acceptance.

With that in mind, consider the new Lexus CT 200h, the new gas-electric 5-door hatchback from Toyota's luxury brand. It's 2 inches shorter than a Toyota Matrix hatchback and is available only in hybrid form. The hybrid driveline used for the Lexus comes from the Toyota Prius, which is larger. Furthermore, the Prius gets better mileage.

How is this a good idea?

Easy. Don't compare it to the Toyota, but to the BMW and Audi. That's when this new Lexus makes sense.

This is a car aimed at a younger buyer than would typically enter a Lexus showroom, and its price isn't significantly higher than a fully loaded midsize sedan. Being more fuel-efficient than any of its luxury competitors, the CT 200h is sure to grab those young, well-heeled drivers who are concerned about reducing their carbon footprint.

So far, it seems smart.

Best of all, Lexus is cloaking the CT in a mantle of sportiness.

Hmmmmm.

OK, the reason any automaker pushes hard for a younger buyer is because they don't have enough of them.

Lexus' products generally appeal to older buyers due to their quiet, comfortable demeanor. But with the CT 200h, Lexus is adding a modicum of driving character while trying to maintain the traditional Lexus mannerisms. It seems like a recipe for failure.

Amazingly, it isn't.

Now, I am not going to tell you that this car drives with the precision of an Audi or the speed of a BMW 135i. It doesn't. The CT 200h's 0-60 mph time is identical to that of a Prius, at 9.8 seconds.

But the feel of the Lexus is significantly more substantial than that of its Toyota cousin. The CT 200h has a more robust character and does feel a bit more athletic. But this is more due to microchips than anything.

The car has three drive modes. It starts in normal mode, which strikes a balance between the bog-slow Eco mode and genuinely entertaining Sport mode. But these modes adjust the steering and driveline response; they do nothing to the suspension.

That said, the car acquits itself fairly well when tackling the twisties, at least until the tires start to howl. Body lean is held fairly in check, so you can have some fun.

But when you need that sudden burst of speed, there's only so much to be had. Flooring the throttle makes the gas engine moan in protest. With just 134 horsepower in a 3,033-pound car, you're not going to win any stoplight grand prix. At highway speeds, you need to plan your moves carefully.

NUTS & BOLTS
2011 LEXUS CT 200H
What we say: A posh Prius
Pro: Styling, luxury, fuel economy
Con: Still pretty pokey
Engine: 1.8-liter DOHC four-cylinder
Motor: 80 kW electric motor/generator
Wheelbase: 102.4 inches
Length: 170.1 inches
Weight: 3,130 pounds
Cargo space: 4.3 cubic fee
EPA rating (city/highway): 43 / 40 mpg
Fuel consumption: 43.5 mpg
Fuel type: Regular
Base price, base model: $29,120
Base price, test model: $30,900
As tested: $36,725

Instead, you'll win at the pump. Attaining almost 44 mpg required little change in driving style. Filling the tank never broke $25.

The CT 200h's cabin has the premium feel one expects of a car in this class although, like its competition, most of the luxury is optional. The test car was the upper-level premium model, not the base car. Options included a $1,100 premium audio package, $1,110 leather package, a $2,445 navigation system and a $75 cargo net.

Audio and navigation controls are accessed through a mouse-like controller on the center console. Other buttons control the climate and the transmission.

Having spent almost 1,000 miles in this car, I can attest that this is one comfortable cruiser.

The front seats are supportive, and leg room is decent for such a small car. Rear seats are comfortable, and leg room is adequate as long as there is some compromise from front seat passengers. The cabin is quiet, with the exception of some tire noise at times.

Cargo space is larger than it looks, although the liftover to access it is a little high.

Assembly quality and materials were very good. However, the top of the instrument panel is puzzling. It should be one piece, but it isn't. Instead, most of it is padded, except for the ends, where Lexus has inserted two hard plastic pieces. On the other hand, kudos to Lexus for wrapping the top edge of the center console in leather. This is an area where taller drivers find their knees resting. It's a detail that automakers usually ignore, but Lexus does not. Bravo.

In the end, the CT 200h, like all great Toyota products, quickly ingratiates itself.

No, it's not the sportiest or fastest in its class. Nor is it the roomiest. But its combination of attributes—youthful looks, luxurious interior, a fuel-sipping hybrid driveline and a modestly entertaining driving experience—show that automakers can create a compelling entry-level compact that will justify its price.

Lease or buy? Not a cut-and-dried answer

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

QUESTION: Advice, please, on whether we should lease or buy a car? We are a senior couple and tend to keep our vehicles for a while. Can you help with some pros and cons?—Paul Paradise, Kissimmee, Fla.

ANSWER: A couple of years ago, good leases were hard to come by, but in this current market, there are quite a few. Most of the leases you see advertised are "subvented" leases, which are backed by the manufacturers, and typically discounted—these are the leases you see advertised by manufacturers, available for the same price at every dealer.

These are usually pretty good offers, but are seldom very negotiable, unless you have a trade-in vehicle—you can dicker on the value of it. Other, non-subvented leases are usually offered by dealers themselves, and can vary from one store to another.

What is the advantage of leasing? Usually a lower down payment, and lower monthly payments. Customers who want a new vehicle every few years are well-served by leasing. People who hang on to their vehicles for a while, usually paying them off, are not—a lease gives you nothing at the end of the contract, and you'll either have to buy the vehicle at a pre-set price, or lease or buy another one.

All leases also have a mileage limit, sometimes as low as 8,000 to 10,000 miles a year. If you drive more than that, you'll pay extra for each mile over your limit.

The best thing to do is work the numbers—see what it costs to buy and to lease a vehicle you are interested in, and see if the limitations of a lease are worth it. Remember that if you decide to terminate a lease early, it will cost you. There are, however, services like the Miami-based LeaseTrader.com, which seeks to match up lease customers who want out of a lease and customers who want to lease for a shorter period of time.

Steven Cole Smith is the automotive editor at the Orlando Sentinel *in Florida. Send questions to scsmith@orlandosentinel.com.*

Forcing a stuck spark plug could cause problems

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I recently took my 2002 Chrysler minivan in for 100,000-mile service and was told that one of the spark plugs would not come out of the cylinder head. The shop tried, but it would only come out so far. Rather than force the plug out, they just screwed it back in place and replaced the other five spark plugs. The van is running fine but what happens if the old spark plug goes bad? Is it OK to do nothing, or should I pursue having it replaced?

ANSWER: Welcome to the world of steel-bodied spark plugs and aluminum cylinder heads. It's not uncommon for high mileage spark plugs to stick in alloy cylinder heads. The dissimilar metals screwed tightly together create an environment prone to corrosion. That's why I always remove spark plugs at about 30,000 miles, apply an anti-seize compound to the threads and reinstall them. This assures they'll come out cleanly for replacement at 100,000 miles.

At this point, you have two choices. First, leave well enough alone—at least until the stuck plug begins to create drivability problems and misfires. Or have a shop remove the stuck plug, then clean and repair the threads in the cylinder head. Several tools and parts are designed for specifically this purpose. If the threads in the head are not pulled out or completely destroyed, a thread "chaser" may restore the threads by "rolling" them back into shape adequately enough to accept a new spark plug. The chaser does not cut any metal, so there's less chance of debris falling into the cylinder.

If the threads are significantly damaged and unsalvageable, a threaded insert like a Heli-Coil can be installed in the spark plug hole. Terry Frost, owner of Block Head Engine Machining in Crystal, recommends removing the cylinder head to prevent metallic debris from failing inside the engine when re-taping the spark plug hole for the insert. Frost says that this procedure can be done with the cylinder head in place, although there is some risk of debris falling into the cylinder. But he tells me the risk can be minimized by blowing any debris out of the spark plug well before removing the old plug, and greasing the insert tap before cutting new threads. The grease will catch and hold most of the debris.

By the way, Frost also suggests a trick that may remove the old spark plug without damage. Apply a good penetrant like Deep Creep and run the engine up to full temperature before trying to unscrew the plug. The aluminum cylinder head will expand more than the steel body of the spark plug. If you're lucky, the plug may come out without significant damage to the threads in the cylinder head.

■■■

Q: I recently had my low-mileage 2006 Buick Lucerne serviced. On the inspection report, the comment was "right front outer tie rod loose." I suspect that it may have been the result of potholes. Should I forget it or get it repaired?

A: Have it checked by a second shop. Or check it yourself. With a floor jack lifting the right front suspension and the wheel/tire off the ground—and a jack stand securing the chassis—grab the tire at the 9 and 3 positions (like on a clock) with both gloved hands and try to push and pull the tire in and out. If you feel movement, try placing a gloved hand around the outer steering tie rod end and use the other hand—or a helper—to push or pull the tire. If the tie rod end is significantly worn, you'll feel a differential movement in your hand between the tie rod end and the steering arm.

If there is identifiable play in the tie rod end, have it replaced and the wheels aligned. And by the way, this is a wear-and-tear component, not something specifically worn or damaged by potholes.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, *is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.*

Life & Style

Out of 'Office,' Steve Carell turns focus to movies

NEW YORK (AP)—Steve Carell is not going through Michael Scott withdrawal—at least not yet.

"I don't sit at home and think of 'that's what she said' jokes and wish that I could do them one more time," says the actor, laughing. "But it's only been a few months, too, so I haven't really had any time. All of that is still fresh to me."

Carell's sendoff from "The Office" (for which he received a parting Emmy nomination) is still fresh in many viewers' minds, too. The emotional hubbub over his exit after seven seasons caught Carell by surprise. He was flattered, he says, but, with typical humility, considers it "just an actor leaving a show."

He moved on to spend more time with his family (wife and former "Saturday Night Live" cast member Nancy Ellen Walls and their two children) and to expand the movie career he had previously squeezed into summer breaks from shooting the hit NBC comedy.

The first glimpse of Carell's post-"Office" days is "Crazy Stupid Love," an ensemble romantic comedy in which he stars and that he produced.

"It is sort of a new phase," Carell said in a recent interview at the Ritz-Carlton. "We'll see how it goes. It's just, just started. You're witnessing day one of the new phase. So far so good."

"Crazy Stupid Love" mirrors the type of movie Carell wants to pursue, particularly its blend of comedy and drama, and its focus on character-based realism.

Carell plays a suburban father who, when his wife (Julianne Moore) cheats on him and they separate, remakes himself as a lady's man with the help of a suave pick-up artist (Ryan Gosling). The film also examines love stories in different generations (Emma Stone pairs with Gosling).



Carell

Glenn Ficarra, who directed with John Requa, calls the role a "transitional piece" for Carell that shows he can smoothly range into more serious material.

"Steve's a writer, so he's always thinking about scenes in a slightly different way, not just as an actor," says Ficarra. "Like '40-Year-Old Virgin' is a very kind of crass concept, but it's a very heartfelt movie. Steve always approaches everything he does trying to come from a real place, as opposed to a wacky place. So I think it's a natural extension to move toward dramatic stuff, because you're just dealing with reality."

After memorably funny roles in "Bruce Almighty" and "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy," 2005's "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" (which Carell co-wrote with Judd Apatow) catapulted Carell's movie career. The former Second City stand-out and "Daily Show" correspondent responded with a steady string of movies.

He has vacillated among blockbusters ("Get Smart," ''Despicable Me"), box-office flops ("Evan Almighty") and absurdist comedies ("Dinner for Schmucks"). But he's shown a respectable inclination for adult-minded comedies such as "Dan in Real Life," ''Date Night" and "Little Miss Sunshine."

But in the constant back-and-forth between movies and the mockumentary-style "Office," some TV habits were hard to break.

"The one thing that's hard getting away from is looking into the camera," says Carell, laughing. "This happened all the way through 'The Office,' when I would go off and do a movie. For the first week, I would continually look into the lens of the movie camera. I'd stop myself and go, 'What the hell am I doing? This isn't the documentary.'"

Directors have often praised Carell's ability to improvise on the spot, performing repeated alternative takes in comedies to twist a scene in different directions. An admirer of great actors such as Alan Arkin, Jack Lemmon and Peter Sellers, Carell has always favored character-based comedy and detests "jokey jokes."

"In real life, people don't walk around telling jokes to each other," Carell says. "That, to me, is not what's most funny about real life. Real human situations and responses are what really make me laugh. When you hear a joke—and it depends on the context and the movie—you feel like you're being set up that way and manipulated. I never like that in a movie. I would much rather buy into a character and laugh at what they're doing as opposed to how funny they're trying to be."

Julianne Moore, who has won Oscar nominations for roles in such dramas as "Far From Heaven," ''The Hours" and "Boogie Nights," believes Carell's approach works, regardless of genre.

"Steve has got a kinetic acuity like nothing I've ever seen," she says. "It is effortless—or seemingly effortless. ... He's great at connecting and noticing things that are going on around him."

"Crazy Stupid Love" is the first film produced by Carell's production company, Carousel Productions. As a producer, he picked the directors, contributed to casting and had input on keeping the tone of the movie as realistic as possible—using "treacle cutters," he says, to weed out sentimentality. In one low-point scene for his character, his wife leaves and it begins to rain. Carell improvised a self-conscious line: "Ah, what a cliche."

Carell is producing a documentary on the last six decades of comedy, to be hosted by David Steinberg. Upcoming acting jobs include co-starring with Meryl Streep and Tommy Lee Jones in "Great Hope Springs," another tale of marriage woes. He will also play a magician in "Burt Wonderstone," and he recently shot the independent romantic comedy "Seeking a Friend for the End of the World" with Keira Knightley.

Carell, who hasn't been credited as a writer since a few 2006-2007 "Office" episodes, plans to write more now that he has time. He knows wistful emotions might kick in when, in a few weeks, "The Office" returns to production for its fall season without him, but thus far, he's relishing his new period—particularly his time with his kids.

"It's been great," he says with a smile. "It's been exactly what I hoped it would be."

Parks essay appears to discuss rape attempt

By ULA ILNYTZKY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—A first-person essay written by civil rights icon Rosa Parks presents a detailed and harrowing account of a young black housekeeper who is nearly raped by a white neighbor.

Looking like a remembrance from Parks' own life, an expert called it an exciting find that might help explain her lifelong advocacy. But on Friday an institute created by Parks disputed that, saying it was hers but a work of fiction.

The six-page document is among thousands of the activist's personal items currently residing in the Manhattan warehouse and cramped offices of Guernsey's Auctioneers, which has been selected by a Michigan court to find an institution to buy and preserve the complete archive.

The Associated Press was provided with some samples of the documents in the archive, including portions of the essay. Archivists who reviewed the documents for Guernsey's provided descriptions of their contents and characterized the encounter as a "near-rape."

Steven G. Cohen, a lawyer for the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development in Detroit, said people who knew Parks well were aware that she liked to write fictional essays for herself. Parks' friend of 45 years, Elaine Steele, never heard Parks speak of the encounter and was not aware of the document, Cohen said.

"This six-page essay we believe is a work of fiction," said Cohen. "We believe that Mrs. Parks meant for the story to be private. It never should have been part of the memorabilia collection."

Civil rights historian Danielle McGuire, however, called the essay an astounding find. "Rosa Parks was very likely to have encountered this kind of proposition," she said.

It helps explain what triggered Parks' lifelong campaign against the ritualistic rape of black women by white men, said McGuire, whose book "At the Dark End of the Street" examines how economic intimidation and sexual violence were used to derail the freedom movement and how it went unpunished during the Jim Crow era.

"I thought it was because of the stories that she had heard. But this gives a much more personal context to that," said McGuire, an assistant professor of history at Wayne State University in Detroit. Her book recounts Parks' role in investigating for the NAACP the case of Recy Taylor, a young sharecropper raped by a group of white men in 1944.

McGuire said she had never heard that Parks wrote fictional essays.

"It would be nice to see evidence of that. She never talks about that in any of her work out there," said McGuire. "It would be more likely that the protectors of her legacy are trying to protect her respectability."

Parks writes in the essay: "He offered me a drink of whiskey, which I promptly and vehemently refused. ... He moved nearer to me and put his hand on my waist. I was very frightened by now."

"He liked me ... he didn't want me to be lonely and would I be sweet to him. He had money to give me for accepting his attentions," she wrote.

"I was ready to die but give my consent never. Never, never."

Most people know the story of Parks—a black, middle-aged seamstress who refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955.

Guernsey's President Arlan Ettinger said her personal papers reveal a much more complex individual, one who spent a lifetime fighting for racial equality and against sexual violence targeting black women.

Parks is credited with inspiring the civil rights movement with her solitary act of defiance on Dec. 1, 1955, that led to the Supreme Court outlawing segregation on buses. She received the nation's two highest honors in her lifetime, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor.

She died in 2005 at age 92, leaving the trove of personal correspondence, papers relating to her work for the Montgomery branch of the NAACP, tributes from presidents and world leaders, school books, family bibles, clothing, furniture and more—about 8,000 items in all.

Guernsey's sale is a component of a resolution to a dispute over her estate among her relatives and the institute she created in 1987.

Guernsey's, known for its sale of iconic and celebrity collections, took an inventory of Parks' homes in Detroit soon after she died and is looking for an institution to buy her archive.

Parks worked on many cases with the NAACP, including the Scottsboro defense of nine black teenage boys accused of rape in Alabama in 1931. She was involved in the black power conventions in the 1970s and the anti-apartheid movement in the 1990s.

Parks wrote on anything she could get her hands on.

Dig through ancient Rome finds mosaic

ROME (AP)—Excavations in the bowels of an ancient Roman hill have turned up a well-preserved, late 1st century wall mosaic with a figure of Apollo, nude except for a colorful mantle over a shoulder.

Archaeologists and city officials unveiled the recent find to reporters Friday on the Oppian Hill.

The mosaic-covered wall is 16 meters (53 feet) wide and at least 2 meters (6.6 feet) high. Officials think the wall continues down some 8 meters (26.5 feet) more.

Archaeologists say the wall appears to be in a tunnel built to help support Trajan's Baths, named for the emperor who ruled from 98 till 117. The mosaic, which also depicts a Muse, apparently embellished a room where wealthy Romans gathered to hear music and discuss art.



AP
An archaeologist works on a portrait of Apollo, part of a mosaic discovered in downtown Rome, Friday, July 29, 2011.

Stone proves quick study on 'The Help,' 'Spidey'

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Emma Stone has gone from layperson to expert on the two publishing sensations she's helping to bring to Hollywood this summer and next.

Stone had not read Kathryn Stockett's "The Help" before auditioning for the lead role in the drama about a white woman who rocks the Deep South establishment by chronicling the hard lives of black maids in the early 1960s.

And before earning the female lead in "The Amazing Spider-Man," Stone knew the Marvel Comics superhero mainly from Sam Raimi's three past big-screen "Spidey" adventures and glimpses of the web-slinger on memorabilia.

"I knew Spidey from Halloween costumes and Band-Aids and erasers and pencils and notebooks," Stone, 22, said in an interview at last week's Comic-Con fan convention, where she and star Andrew Garfield joined the filmmakers to reveal footage of the 2012 summer blockbuster-in-waiting.

"I knew that every little boy at school was obsessed with Spidey. I saw all the Sam Raimi movies, but I had not read the comics until I got involved. And now I'm a ridiculously enormous 'Spider-Man' fan. That's what happens. That character is one of the most incredible characters, I think, ever written, comic-book world or literary world. It's just such an inspirational character. I think that's probably the reason he's the president's favorite superhero."

Stone has been on a steady rise in Hollywood, co-starring in 2007's teen romp "Superbad" and 2009's horror comedy "Zombieland," then charming audiences with her first big-screen lead in last year's "The Scarlet Letter" twist "Easy A."

After supporting roles in back-to-back romantic comedies with last week's "Friends With Benefits" and this week's "Crazy Stupid Love," Stone's profile shoots higher with the Aug. 10 debut of "The Help," co-starring Viola Davis, Bryce Dallas Howard and Octavia Spencer.

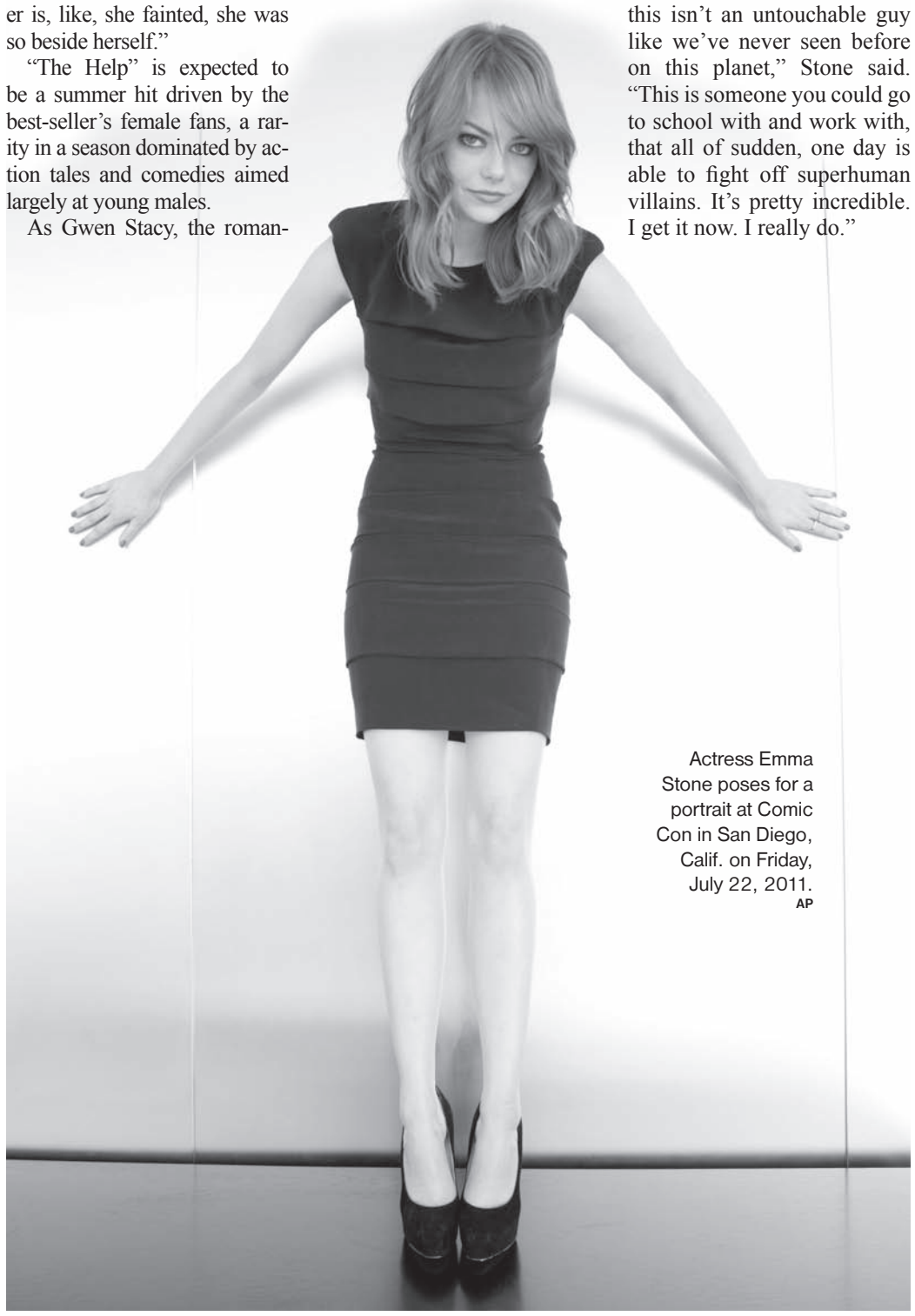
Stone recalled being as much a novice on "The Help" as she had been on "Spider-Man." She was about to meet with the filmmakers for the first time and happened to give her mom a call.

"I've got a meeting tonight for 'The Help,'" Stone told her mother. "And she screamed so loud my eardrums burst. She said, 'You've got to read this book! You have to go and read this book right now!' My mother is, like, she fainted, she was so beside herself."

"The Help" is expected to be a summer hit driven by the best-seller's female fans, a rarity in a season dominated by action tales and comedies aimed largely at young males.

As Gwen Stacy, the romantic interest for Garfield's Peter Parker in next July's "Spider-Man" reboot, Stone will be in the thick of a fan-boy frenzy. Yet the fact that Peter's a skinny, bullied kid who leaps to hero status through the bite of a mutant spider makes him an idol for everyone, not just comic-book and action fans, Stone said.

"Batman's great, but this isn't a rich guy building a suit. And Superman's great, but this isn't an untouchable guy like we've never seen before on this planet," Stone said. "This is someone you could go to school with and work with, that all of sudden, one day is able to fight off superhuman villains. It's pretty incredible. I get it now. I really do."



Actress Emma Stone poses for a portrait at Comic Con in San Diego, Calif. on Friday, July 22, 2011.
AP

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Cowboys and Aliens
Fri and Sat 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:10 7:10
Daniel Craig, Harrison Ford
Science fiction, Western • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Based on the graphic novel by Scott Mitchell Rosenberg, Cowboys & Aliens starts in 1800s Arizona, where the local cowboys, headed by gunslinger Jake Lonergan (Daniel Craig), and the indigenous Apache tribe have been feuding fiercely for quite a while. Their skirmish is interrupted, however, by the appearance of a spaceship, commanded by an alien creature that's bent on enslaving the human race.

The Smurfs
Fri and Sat 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:40
Sun thru Thurs 1:30 4:30 7:30
Hank Azaria, George Lopez
Chicldren's family, Comedy • Rated PG
Synopsis
Scooby-Doo director Raja Gosnell takes the helm for this 3D live action/CGI comedy based on the popular characters created by Belgian cartoonist Peyo (aka Pierre Culliford). In their race to escape the malevolent wizard Gargamel, the little blue forest dwellers find themselves suddenly transported to Central Park. Now stuck in a world populated by towering giants, the Smurfs must find a way to elude Gargamel, and find a way back to the village they call home.

Crazy Stupid Love
Fri and Sat 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:30
Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:20 7:20
Steve Carrell, Julianne Moore
Comedy • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Sad-sack divorcée Cal Weaver (Steve Carell) finds his second wind in life after meeting a handsome young ladies' man who teaches him how to become a master of the modern dating scene. A devoted family man who married his high school sweetheart, Cal had a great house and a stable job when his wife, Emily (Julianne Moore), left him to be with another man. When Emily announces that she's filing for divorce, Cal finds himself awkwardly thrust into the dating scene and begins drinking his nights away at the local pub.

Captain America: The First Avenger
Fri and Sat 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25
Chris Evans, Tommy Lee Jones
Action • Rated PG 13

Friends With Benefits
Fri and Sat 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sun thru Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05
Justin Timberlake, Mila Kunis
Comedy • Rated R

Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows-Part2
Fri and Sat 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:15
Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
Action, Adventure, Drama • Rated PG 13

Transformers: Dark of the Moon
Fri and Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00
Shia LaBeouf, Josh Duhamel
Action, Science fiction • Rated PG 13

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'Cowboys & Aliens,' 'Smurfs' tie for No. 1 spot

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Little blue Smurfs and not-so-little green men from space are in a photo finish for the No. 1 spot at the weekend box office.

Daniel Craig and Harrison Ford's science-fiction Western "Cowboys & Aliens" and the family adventure "The Smurfs" both opened with $36.2 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

That leaves Sony's "Smurfs" and Universal's "Cowboys & Aliens" tied for the top spot. Figuring out the No. 1 movie will have to wait until final numbers are counted Monday.

"In all my years, I've never really seen a race this close," said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com. "Generally, in the world of movie box office, $1 million is a close call, so to have two films in a dollar-to-dollar tie is somewhat unprecedented."

Studios often round off their Sunday numbers, which include Friday and Saturday totals plus an estimate of Sunday business based on how similar movies have done in the past.

So Sunday figures typically are rounded off to the nearest $50,000 or $100,000, with more accurate, to-the-dollar numbers generally coming in Monday's final tally.

But Universal released an estimate of $36,206,250, which would have put "Cowboys & Aliens" a fraction ahead of "The Smurfs" in Sunday's rankings. So Sony, which had reported a rounded-off figure of $36.2 million, matched that $36,206,250 estimate for "The Smurfs."

"We're going with that extra $6,250, because it's just too close to call," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution at Sony. "It just seems like the most fair thing to do is call it a tie and let Monday sort it out."

1 (tie). "**Cowboys & Aliens**," $36.2 million.
1 (tie). "**The Smurfs**," $36.2 million.
3. "**Captain America: The First Avenger**," $24.9 million ($48.5 million international).
4. "**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2**," $21.9 million.
5. "**Crazy, Stupid, Love**," $19.3 million.
6. "**Friends with Benefits**," $9.3 million.
7. "**Horrible Bosses**," $7.1 million.
8. "**Transformers: Dark of the Moon**," $6 million ($42 million international).
9. "**Zookeeper**," $4.2 million.
10. "**Cars 2**," $2.3 million ($30 million international).

‘Potter’ finale conjures up $1 billion worldwide

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Harry Potter has joined the billion-dollar club.

Distributor Warner Bros. said Sunday that “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2” crossed the $1 billion mark at the worldwide box office. It’s soon expected to pass “Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides,” which is this year’s top grossing movie at $1.03 billion.

The last of the eight films about the young wizard is the first in the franchise to reach the billion dollar mark. The previous best global haul was $974.8 million for the original film, 2001’s “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone.”

With $21.9 million domestically this weekend, “Deathly Hallows: Part 2” climbed to a domestic total of $318.5 million. That tops the franchise’s previous best of $317.6 million for “Sorcerer’s Stone.”

But factoring in today’s higher admission prices, “Deathly Hallows: Part 2” has not caught up to “Sorcerer’s Stone” in terms of actual tickets sold.

The 2009 film “Avatar” holds the record for the biggest worldwide box office haul, grossing $2.8 billion. It’s followed by another James Cameron film, “Titanic,” which brought in $1.8 billion.

Kings of Leon vow to redo ‘too hot’ Dallas show

NEW YORK (AP)—The Kings of Leon are promising a redo for their Dallas fans after canceling a show because their lead singer complained it was too hot to perform, leading other members to profusely apologize to the audience.

In a statement, the family rock band, known for hits including the Grammy Award-winning anthem “Use Somebody,” announced plans to return to Dallas on Sept. 21 to make up for Friday’s mid-show cancellation, which drummer Nathan Followill called a “fiasco” on Twitter.

“The Kings of Leon apologize to their fans for the inconvenience this may have caused and look forward to seeing their fans again in September,” read a statement sent by their publicist on Sunday.

On Friday, lead singer Caleb Followill repeatedly complained that it was too hot and that his voice was suffering because of it.

“My voice is completely 100 percent gone,” he said.

After a few more songs, he announced to the audience: “I’m gonna go back stage for a second, I’m gonna vomit, I’m gonna drink a beer and I’m gonna come back out and play three more songs.”



AP

In this Oct. 21, 2010 file photo, members of the band Kings of Leon, from left, Jared Followill, Nathan Followill, Matthew Followill and Caleb Followill, pose for a portrait in New York.

He never did come back out, leaving the rest of the band to announce the abrupt end of the show to a booing audience. The other members, including guitarist Matthew Followill and bassist Jared Followill, were apologetic and later took to Twitter to let out their frustrations.

“Not so good morning 4 me today,” Nathan Followill tweeted. “Ashamed & embarrassed by last night’s fiasco. Can’t apologize enough, utterly gutted. A million I’m sorrys.”

Jared Followill tweeted: “Dallas, I cannot begin to tell you how sorry I am. There are internal sicknesses & problems that have needed to be addressed. No words.”

He added: “I love our fans so much. I know you guys aren’t stupid. There are problems in our band bigger than not drinking enough Gatorade.”

However, the statement released by the band did not address other troubles, and it said Caleb “suffered from heat exhaustion and dehydration ... causing his vocal chords to seize.”

The Nashville-based band also canceled Saturday’s show in Houston. That show was rescheduled for Sept. 22.

Bush details 9/11 memories for documentary

NEW YORK (AP)—An extensive interview with former President George W. Bush about his memories of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks is the centerpiece of a documentary next month on the National Geographic Channel.

“George W. Bush: The 9/11 Interview” will debut on Aug. 28.

Bush said 9/11 will be a day on the calendar “like Pearl Harbor Day. For those of us who lived through it, it’ll be a day we never forget.”

Bush talks about learning of the attack when the news was whispered in his ear during a visit to a Florida school, and weighing how he would respond. Along with his responsibilities as president, he had some of the same worries as many other Americans that day.

“One of my concerns, like the concerns of other husbands and wives, was, ‘Was my spouse OK? Was Laura OK? And my second concern was, ‘Were our girls OK?’”

He described his visit to ground zero after the attack. It looked like a giant scar from the air, but when he got to the site, “it was like walking into hell,” he said.

The two-day interview by the National Geographic crew started the day after President Barack Obama announced the killing of 9/11 mastermind Osama bin Laden. Bush says the news made him “grateful.”

He says: “I didn’t feel any great sense of happiness or jubilation. I felt a sense of closure. And I felt a sense of gratitude that justice had been done.”

Unexpected pregnancies can bring unexpected joy

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am writing to respond to “Old Mama in Washington State” (June 1), whose pregnancy at 40 is unwelcome to her husband and two teens. My parents had a “bonus baby” when they were in their early 40s. I was 17 and my brother was 13 when we found out. It was hard for us to accept at first. I was grossed out by the idea of my parents having sex, and I was afraid people would think the baby was mine after she was born.

All our worries disappeared when we first laid eyes on our baby sister. I love her to death, and she is lucky to have my brother as her protector. It was a good thing that we were nearly 18 years apart, because I got the benefits of a sister without having to share a room! Now, at 12, she’s a fabulous friend to my 8-year-old and will soon be big enough to baby-sit the 4-year-old and the baby.

I’m sure “Mama’s” family will become more accepting over time. When they see that baby, they’ll know their family is finally complete.

PROUD BIG SISTER IN CHICAGO

DEAR BIG SISTER: Thank you for writing. I received a mountain of mail in response to that letter. Readers were enthusiastic in expressing their firsthand experiences being families with unexpected pregnancies. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I was pregnant with twins at 45 and my then-18-year-old daughter was furious with me, going as far as banning me from her high school graduation. It hurt, and I agonized over the decision, but in the end I waddled in anyway. I’m so glad I did.

Fast-forward: The twins are almost 3 now, and they worship their older sister and brother, and the feeling is mutual. As soon as “Mama’s” husband sees the baby, I’m sure he’ll be over the moon as well. Yes, the future looks exhausting, but it’s well worth it. This time around you’ll have so much more patience and wisdom—and you’ll pick your battles more wisely.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

DEAR ABBY: I have to agree with “Mama’s” family. Pregnant at 40 is not a miracle, and she’s deluded to think so. I was born when my mother was 42. I’m 16 years younger than my oldest sibling, and all my cousins are older.

It is hard growing up with no siblings to play with and no cousins to really talk to because they’re all in high school and don’t want a “kid” tagging along. I felt unwanted most of my childhood.

It gets better for a while, but then you watch your parents age and die. I didn’t have the kind of relationship with my grandparents that my siblings did. And because I was born so many years behind everyone, I missed out on most of the fun family times.

Please tell “Mama” not to take it personally, to be sure her new addition is paid attention to and assured that he/she is much loved and wanted.

UNEXPECTED SURPRISE IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: I was 42, with children ages 12 and 17, when we were surprised by an unplanned pregnancy. We were concerned, of course, with the statistics for a complicated pregnancy, so we had the testing done and trusted that everything would be OK. My pregnancy and delivery were the best of all three, and my little girl has been a blessing to everyone.

She’s now 13, and living with a teenager when you’re in your 50s is a surefire way to stave off dementia. You have to stay on your toes, and we thank God that he chose to send us one last bundle of joy.

“Mama,” don’t let the resentment of your family steal your happiness. They will either have a change of heart or not, but that baby will be loved, because she has a mom with a lot of experience.

ANOTHER OLD MOM IN RICHMOND

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Amy Winehouse tops UK charts 8 days after death

LONDON (AP)—Amy Winehouse’s album “Back To Black” has climbed back to top of the British album chart, eight days after the singer died in London. The Grammy award-winning album was also No. 1 in 2006 when it was released. Also on Sunday, Winehouse’s debut album “Frank” reached No. 5. Winehouse has also left a trove of unreleased music, but no decision has been made about whether it will be released. The 27-year-old soul diva, who had struggled with drug and alcohol addiction, was found dead of unknown causes at her London home on July 23.

US taxidermist preserves Gaga’s meat dress

KETCHIKAN, Alaska (AP)—A California taxidermist has earned a rare place in pop history. Sergio Vigalato preserved Lady Gaga’s now-famous raw-meat dress for display in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland. The project has prompted a swarm of media interest in the 66-year-old former Southeast Alaska charter boat skipper who’s originally from Brazil. Vigalato operates American Taxidermy in Burbank, California. That’s where he was contacted by the museum about preserving the dress that Lady Gaga wore at the September 2010 MTV Video Music Awards. Vigalato was unaware of the dress or the artist when reached two months after the show. But he agreed to the project anyway. The ensemble, which Lady Gaga said was a statement about equality, arrived at his shop frozen and decomposing. He restored it over the next three and a half months, and the dress went on display in June.

Pacino’s daughter arrested for drunken driving

NEW YORK (AP)—Al Pacino’s 21-year-old daughter has been arrested on a drunken driving charge in New York City. Police say Julie Pacino was stopped at a traffic checkpoint on West Houston Street in Manhattan at 1:05 a.m. Saturday. Police say Pacino’s blood-alcohol level was over the legal limit for driving. Her exact blood-alcohol level was not immediately available. Pacino is being held at the Manhattan Detention Complex pending arraignment. No information on an attorney was immediately available. Julie Pacino is Al Pacino’s daughter with acting coach Jan Tarrant. Julie Pacino went to the University of California at Los Angeles, where she was a softball standout.

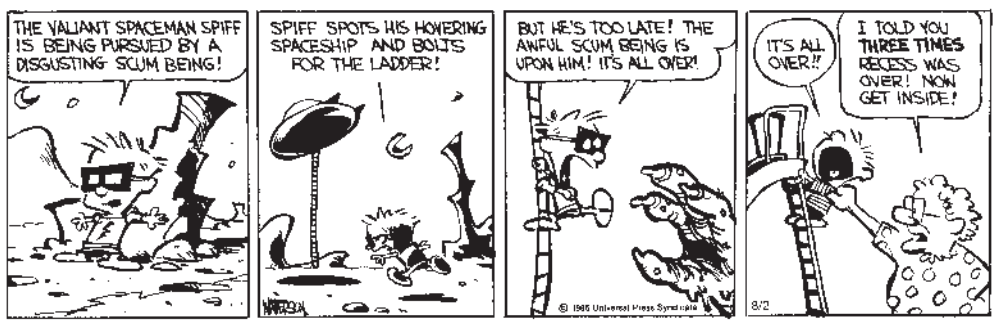
US home owned by Katharine Hepburn up for sale

OLD SAYBROOK, Connecticut (AP)—Katharine Hepburn’s former home on Connecticut’s side of Long Island Sound is up for sale. Owners have updated the house by combining rooms to create larger and more open spaces. The house had 21 rooms and nine bathrooms but has been reduced to 15 rooms and 7 ½ bathrooms. The estate is now on the market for $28 million. The house, on the largest of three lots, can be purchased separately for $18 million. Seven years ago, the property sold for $6 million. The Academy Award-winning actress retired to the home and lived there until her death in 2003 at age 96. The feminist icon won four Academy Awards and received 12 nominations over her 60-year career.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



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By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

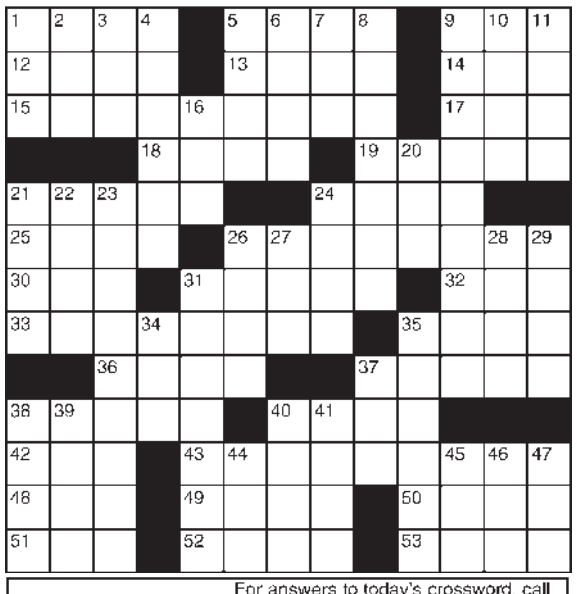
ACROSS
1 Wound reminder
5 Conceal
9 Second-stringer
12 Tittle
13 Press clothing
14 Paid player
15 Named in detail
17 Maestro de Waart
18 Barbra's "A Star Is Born" co-star
19 Happen
21 Bewildered
24 Fresh kid
25 NYPD rank
26 Go where you shouldn't
30 Eisenhower
31 Cell, e.g.
32 Pirouette pivot
33 Adorn
35 Staff
36 Military group
37 Connected to the Internet
38 Big fracas
40 String instruments
42 Eggs
43 Marking with bits of color
48 Favorite
49 Poi base
50 Unsigned (Abbr.)
51 Away from WSW
52 Ugly duckling, eventually
53 Invitation initialism

DOWN
1 Family member
2 Police officer
3 Chowed down
4 Din
5 Stereo setup
6 Eye part
7 Fawn's mama
8 Sign the back of a check
9 Bleacherite
10 Pakistani language
11 Loutish sort
16 A Gershwin
20 Upper limit
21 Alkali neutralizer
22 Snatch
23 Guess
24 Part of N.B.
26 What this isn't
27 Deteriorate
28 Unrivaled
29 Burpee wares
31 Church VIPs
34 Inseparable
35 Obelisk, for instance
37 Stir-fry pan
38 Sulk
39 Tied
40 Designer Wang
41 PC picture
44 Dog's foot
45 Office holders
46 Thanksgiving mo.
47 Econ. indicator

Solution time: 21 mins.

H	U	G	O	■	M	E	L	■	P	O	N	G
B	R	O	C	C	O	L	I	■	O	V	A	L
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■	■	■	E	D	O	■	R	A	I	D	E	D
F	L	A	R	E	■	S	E	C	T	■	■	■
D	E	N	S	■	O	N	T	H	E	Q	T	■
A	G	O	■	O	V	A	T	E	■	U	R	I
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■	■	■	A	I	R	S	■	H	F	D	G	T
G	A	M	B	O	L	■	S	O	D	■	■	■
E	L	U	L	■	O	N	T	H	E	W	A	Y
N	O	S	E	■	R	E	L	O	C	A	T	E
T	E	S	T	■	D	E	O	■	K	N	E	W

Yesterday's answer 8-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sam Worthington, 35; Kevin Smith, 41; Mary-Louise Parker, 47; Peter O'Toole, 79.

Happy Birthday: You have to put more emphasis on work and how you can earn extra income. Use your imagination when dealing with money matters. Changing your home environment may be enticing, but do so only if you are sure you can afford it. Social networking will lead to new friendships and interesting pastimes. Your numbers are 5, 12, 15, 21, 24, 32, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You should consider starting your own small business to help subsidize your expenses. Your ideas are right on the money, and your know-how can help you get something off the ground that you've wanted to pursue for some time. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): If you interact with people from different backgrounds, you will gain insight with regard to the way others do things. Your dedication will pay off, and compliments and rewards will be granted. Avoid overindulgence and overspending. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Interact with acquaintances you want to get to know better. Avoid encounters with loved ones who may cause upset or a change in your current status. Deception and disillusionment will prevail if you try to fix a personal matter. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Say what's on your mind and in your heart. Honest discussions will bring you closer to settling whatever differences you have. You can share stories as well as chores and come out feeling closer to the people who play an intricate part in your life. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Regarding money and legal matters, let your intuition lead the way. An unusual turn of events will help you impress someone who interests you. Take an active role in helping a cause and you will meet someone who can help you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Once you tell people what you want, you will find it much easier to move forward. A lifestyle change will do you a world of good by allowing you to explore cultural differences. Exercise and proper diet will help your disposition and physical well-being. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): The experiences you have now will help you in the future. Put greater emphasis on how you earn a living and budgeting. Collect old debts and return favors. Getting together with someone who complements you will lead to interesting prospects. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put more effort into your business relationships. Your status will improve if you are willing to help someone in need. Don't let personal matters stand in the way of what you want to accomplish. A new creative outlet would help your state of mind. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't respond emotionally if you are questioned about how you do things. An open mind will help you learn as you go, as well as nurture your relationship with the people you deal with. A financial opportunity will benefit you personally. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): A residential move will make your life easier. A pressing legal settlement or contract can be dealt with efficiently. A change to a partnership will be to your benefit. Good fortune is heading your way. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't leave anything undone. An emotional encounter will help you sort out a personal matter that has been bothering you. Love is in the stars, and greater personal and financial stability is within reach. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Plan something special for someone you want to work with in the future. Your thoughtfulness will open up an opportunity you've been dreaming about. Put a little pressure on someone who can help you develop a longtime goal. Your enthusiasm and knowledge will attract support. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are practical, efficient and dependable. You are a thinker, a doer and a planner.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				1		3		
	9		8			1		
				6		5	7	4
5	6	2	6		1	8	3	7
2	8	4 1		9	6		8	
		3		4				

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	9	5	4	8	6	3	7	2
2	3	8	5	7	9	4	1	6
7	4	6	2	1	3	9	5	8
3	2	9	8	4	1	5	6	7
4	5	1	3	6	7	2	8	9
6	8	7	9	5	2	1	4	3
8	1	2	6	9	4	7	3	5
9	6	4	7	3	5	8	2	1
5	7	3	1	2	8	6	9	4

Difficulty Level ★ 8/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SUMMER BOAT RIDE **Solution: 10 letters**

G	P	L	D	E	C	K	M	R	H	E	R	A	F	T
I	L	A	M	E	H	O	E	A	S	C	N	A	E	R
F	T	I	D	Y	N	G	T	I	E	C	T	M	E	I
E	W	H	D	D	A	I	U	T	H	R	P	I	C	G
S	S	A	C	E	L	R	G	O	A	E	T	H	H	G
Y	E	E	L	A	C	E	R	N	R	G	O	S	V	E
R	K	T	A	J	Y	T	S	A	E	P	E	I	A	R
L	E	A	K	S	O	P	T	U	P	V	E	F	C	I
E	E	O	E	U	O	U	L	Y	M	S	A	B	A	V
V	T	L	R	R	R	N	R	E	T	M	R	W	T	E
A	A	F	T	E	C	O	Ⓣ	N	A	E	E	A	I	R
R	M	R	N	Y	T	Ⓢ	U	R	E	S	F	R	O	E
T	I	A	C	O	Ⓐ	S	T	Z	J	Y	U	A	N	T
P	L	A	M	Ⓕ	C	V	E	S	S	E	L	R	S	A
P	C	K	E	T	S	H	O	R	E	H	T	A	E	W

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Anchor, Breeze, Choppy, Climate, Coast, Cottage, Creaky, Cruise, Date, Deck, Eager, Engine, Fast, Fish, Float, Gear, Glide, Hitch, Journey, Lake, Leaks, Motor, Oars, Paddle, Plan, Pleasure, Raft, Ready, Rigger, River, Rough, Rusty, Safety, Season, Shore, Stream, Summer, Swim, Temperature, Tour, Travel, Trip, Vacation, Vessel, Water, Wave, Weather, Yacht

Yesterday's Answer: Gags

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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0142
-v-	:	
ALBERT I. REMOKET and CONSOLACION I. REMOKET, Defendants.	:	

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

DATED, this 14th day of July, 2011:

/s/Clerk of Court

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Classified Ads

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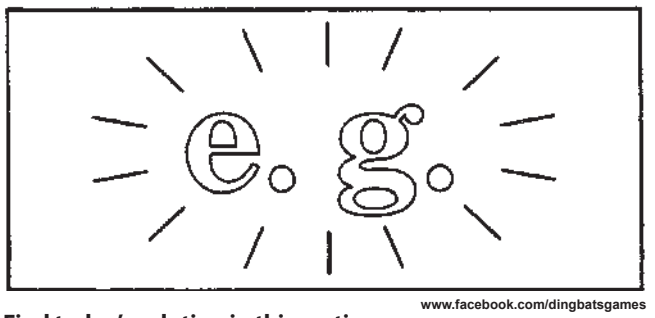
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From jail to Jets, Burress finds a new home

NEW YORK (AP)—Stuck in prison and his NFL career derailed, Plaxico Burress insisted he'd be back one day.

Rex Ryan and the New York Jets are giving him that second chance.

"I'm just grateful," a confident yet humble Burress said Sunday night. "I'm excited about the opportunity and I'm going to give them everything I've got because they put their trust in me to be able to come in and contribute and have an impact."

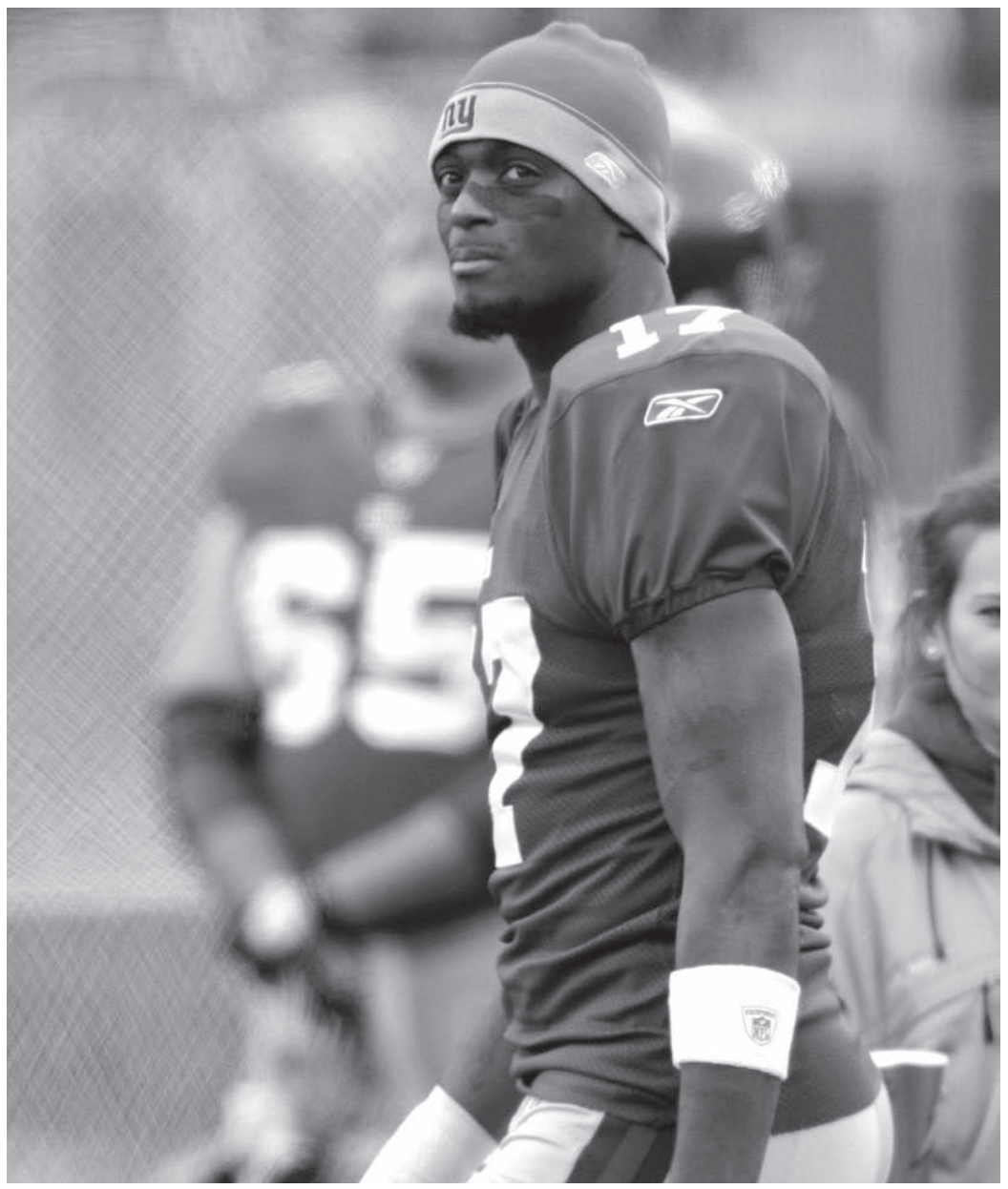
The former Super Bowl star with the Giants signed a one-year deal with the Jets on Sunday after recently being released from prison after serving 20 months on a gun charge. Burress, who turns 34 on Aug. 12, caught the game-winning touchdown in the Giants' upset of the unbeaten New England Patriots in the 2008 Super Bowl, before his career derailed after he accidentally shot himself in a New York nightclub later that year.

"When something's taken away from you that you love, you know you love it more," he said. "You learn that playing in this business is definitely a privilege. I definitely miss being away from the game and the guys and being able to compete every Sunday with the best athletes in the world."

Now, the Jets are hoping Burress can revive his career the way Michael Vick did with the Eagles.

Vick served 18 months in prison for his involvement in a dogfighting ring before returning to football in 2009. He was eased back into things by the Eagles before taking over as the starting quarterback last year and capping a terrific season by being selected as the AP's Comeback Player of the Year.

Burress has a chance to make even more of an immediate mark for the Jets. He'll join the recently re-signed Santonio Holmes as one of Mark Sanchez's top receivers.



AP

In this Nov. 16, 2008 file photo, New York Giants wide receiver Plaxico Burress (17) watches from the sidelines against the Baltimore Ravens during the first half of an NFL football game in East Rutherford, N.J.

"I've never played with a guy on the other side of me who was that explosive," Burress said of Holmes. "It's going to be fun. I think we're going to drive some defensive coordinators crazy - which way they want to roll their coverage in certain situations, in the red zone, so it'll be interesting to see how teams match up against us."

ESPN first reported the deal, saying it is for more than $3 million fully guaranteed. Burress was at the airport in Los Angeles on his way to a meeting with the San Francisco 49ers, ESPN reported, but canceled that trip when the Jets contacted him. He agreed to come back to New York, but in green and white this time, without even visiting with the Jets or speaking to Rex Ryan.

"There was no sales pitch needed," he said. "You just look at all the pieces that are in place. You get a chance to compete for a world championship every year, play for a great organization, play with a great quarterback. I get to play beside Santonio Holmes and a future Hall of Famer in LaDainian Tomlinson."

Burress also appreciated how owner Woody Johnson and general manager Mike Tannenbaum met with him in 2009, despite his legal situation being uncertain at the time.

"They were really the first team to support me with everything that I had going on at that time," he said, "and it just felt right for me to be able to come here with everything that I had going on a couple of years ago, to have those guys approach me in the way that they did I just felt I made the right decision."

A few hours after announcing the agreement, the Jets were accepting pre-orders for replica Burress jerseys for $80 on their website. Matt Higgins, the Jets' executive vice president of business operations, tweeted that Burress would be wearing No. 17 - Braylon Edwards' number the past two seasons.

Burress met with the Pittsburgh Steelers, where he spent his first five seasons, on Saturday after sitting down with Giants coach Tom Coughlin on Friday.

"His decision was to go elsewhere," Coughlin said. "It sounded like a bigger guarantee. I don't know all of the facts about that. That's what happens in this business. His decision was made and, again, we wish he and his family well."

Burress said there was a sense of closure with that meeting, and it was good "to kind of turn the page."

Because of the NFL's post-lockout rules, Burress can't practice with the team until Thursday. But clearly, the Jets are confident - sight unseen - that he has a lot left as they try for a Super Bowl run even though he hasn't played in the NFL since 2008.

There will be plenty of questions: How soon can he be in football shape? Has he lost a significant amount of speed? Does he still have those sure hands? Can he handle the media spotlight of being back in New York?

"I feel I'm in great shape," he said, adding that he'll surely be a little rusty. "I think a lot of people are going to be surprised with my conditioning and different things I've been doing in South Florida to get myself back to where I want to be, and that's definitely to get back to playing at a high level real soon."

One thing the Jets know is that Burress gives Sanchez a big receiver - he's 6-foot-5 - who's a red-zone presence to complement Holmes, Jerricho Cotchery, Dustin Keller and a solid running game with Shonn Greene and Tomlinson.

Burress pleaded guilty in August 2009 to attempted criminal possession of a weapon after accidentally shooting himself in the thigh at a Manhattan nightclub in November 2008, accepting a two-year prison term. He was released about three months early for good behavior, but will be on parole for two years.

He was told to get and keep a job, undergo substance abuse testing, obey any curfew established by his Florida parole officer, support his family and undergo any anger counseling or other conditions required by his parole officer.

Burress has 505 catches for 7,845 yards and 55 touchdowns in his NFL career with the Steelers and Giants.

The move softens the blow for the Jets after losing out on cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha, who was New York's top priority after re-signing Holmes. But Asomugha surprisingly signed with Philadelphia, and the Jets were forced to turn their attention elsewhere.

Burress' career with the Giants was filled with terrific moments along with troubles—missed meetings, a one-game suspension, a contract dispute. Then came the incident that changed his life.

He was released in April 2009, a few months before beginning his prison sentence. Now he's free and motivated to show he can still be a productive playmaker, and the Jets are willing to let Burress prove it while they go for a Super Bowl of their own.

"I've been around for a little while now and I'll just sit down with the coaches, sit down with the quarterback," Burress said, "and just learn the formations and where I need to be at. I don't think it's going to take me that long at all."

Stallings wins Greenbrier Classic in playoff

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. (AP)—Scott Stallings made a birdie on the final hole to qualify for a three-way playoff, then sprinted in excitement toward the 18th tee and showed he could repeat the feat on the first extra hole.

The PGA Tour rookie sank a 7-footer for birdie on the 168-yard hole to win the Greenbrier Classic on Sunday, beating Bob Estes and Bill Haas.

After watching Estes and Haas miss longer birdie attempts on the first extra hole, Stallings curled in his putt for his first tour victory. He flipped his putter, then hugged and high-fived his caddie.

"To be a champion in such a great event is a huge blessing," Stallings said.

The 26-year-old Stallings is the 10th first-time winner on the PGA Tour this year and the sixth rookie to do it.

"I've wanted to do this since I was a little kid," Stallings said. "I was that little boy running around chasing autographs and yelling at guys because they wouldn't stop and sign my golf balls."

Stallings overcame a tough start and made six birdies on the back nine to gain the playoff, where he earned a winner's check worth $1.08 million and a spot in the Bridgestone Invitational.

Stallings said he was more excited about moving from 88th to 26th on the FedEx Cup points list.

A native of Worchester, Mass., and die-hard Red Sox fan, he'll likely realize one of his biggest goals to play in the Deutsch Bank Championship, the second stop in the FedEx Cup playoffs outside of Boston. The top 100 in the points standings after the Barclays, the first playoff stop, will qualify.

It marked the second straight week that a tournament was won in sudden death. Sean O'Hair beat Kris Blanks on the first playoff hole a week ago at the Canadian Open.

In just its second year, the Greenbrier Classic produced another dramatic finish. Stuart Appleby shot 59 in last year's final round, including a birdie on the last hole to beat Jeff Overton by a stroke.

Estes and Haas each earned $528,000. Haas earned his fourth top-10 finish of the season and improved to 12th in the FedEx standings.

The 45-year-old Estes missed out on his first tour win since 2002 and fifth overall. Estes sat out the first three months of the year with a wrist injury and was playing in just his seventh tournament.

Estes, playing with a respiratory illness, shot 6-under 64 and was the clubhouse leader at 10 under, then found out Haas birdied the par-5 17th six groups later to join him after a 67.

Stallings, who shot 69, waited a half hour on the 17th tee and bogeyed the par-5 after his drive went out of bounds. He needed a birdie at No. 18 to make the playoff. He sank a 5-footer to do it.

After signing his scorecard, Stallings made his impromptu sprint and said later he wasn't too winded for the playoff.

"Running from the back of the green to the tee to go to the playoff is something I'll never forget," he said. "I've been working with a trainer for about a month, so he should be proud."

Estes waited more than an hour between the final round and the playoff. He went to eat, then warmed up on the practice range, hitting his 8 iron and putter to prepare for No. 18, and driver, 5 wood and sand wedges for No. 17 if it went that far.

"I felt like I did everything exactly right," Estes said. "I just didn't make the birdie putt on 18."

Jimmy Walker (68), Andres Romero (65), Brendon de Jonge (66), Cameron Tringale (67) and Gary Woodland (69) finished at 9 under.

After last year's tournament, the course was lengthened more than 200 yards and the reseeded greens were less receptive to approach shots this time around. Appleby and Phil Mickelson were among those missing the cut, and the low rounds of the tournament were 62s shot by Anthony Kim and Walker on Saturday.

There were birdies to be made Sunday, just not the boatload that Appleby enjoyed last year.

Kim, the third-round leader, missed four birdie tries under 14 feet on the first six holes. He three-putted the par-3 8th, then hooked his tee shot into trees on the next hole and made bogey. He shot 74 to finish at 6 under, tied with four others.

Webb Simpson overcame a double bogey on the first hole, made five birdies on the front nine and took the lead briefly after a 3-footer for birdie at No. 9. It would be his last. He bogeyed the next hole and never recovered. He shot even par and finished tied with Kyle Stanley at 8 under.

Verlander nears no-hitter in Tigers win

DETROIT (AP)—Justin Verlander came within four outs of another no-hitter, outpitching an angry Jered Weaver as the Detroit Tigers beat the Los Angeles Angels 3-2 on Sunday in a testy game that grew particularly heated in the late innings.

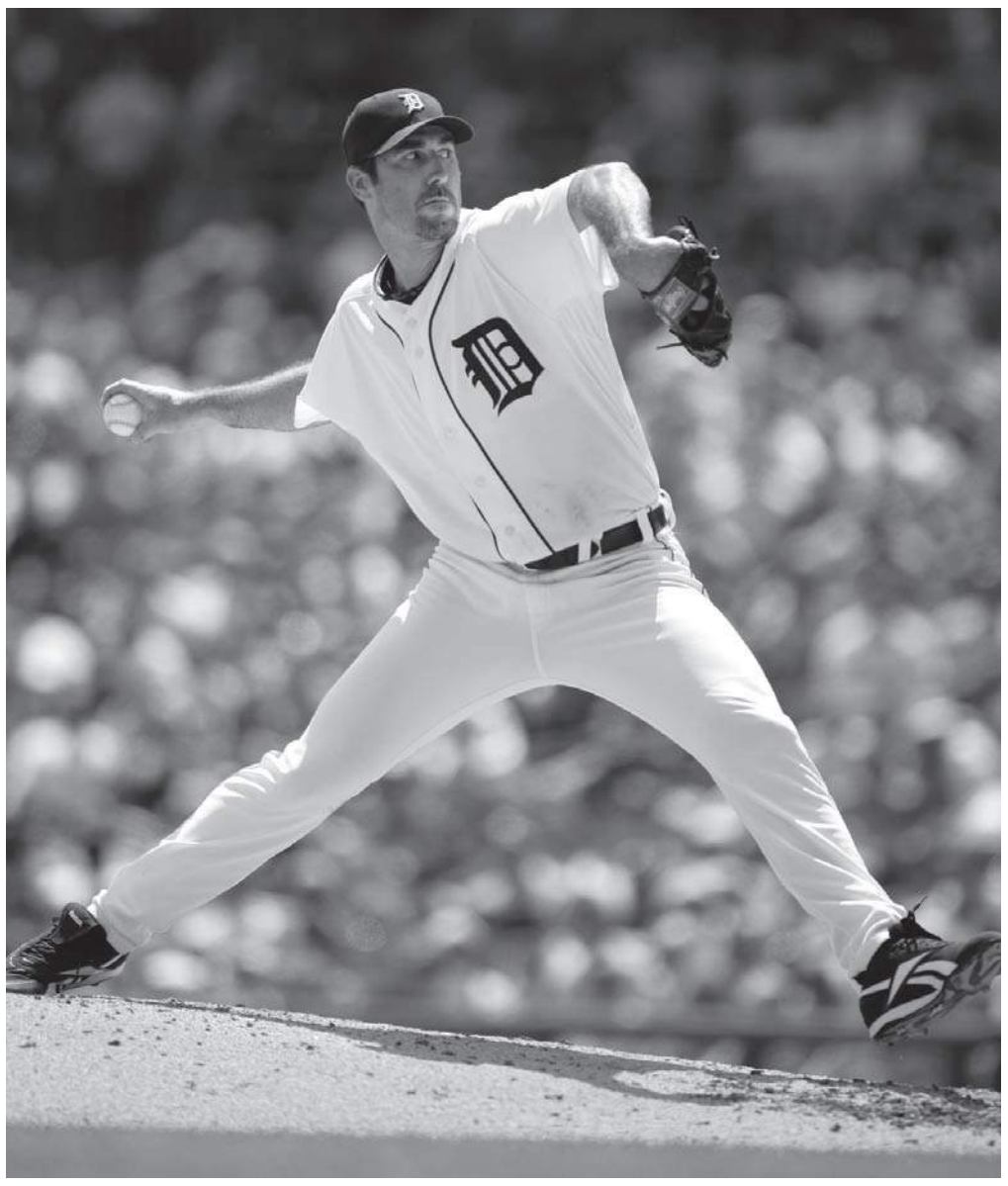
Maicer Izturis lined an RBI single to left field with two outs in the eighth for the Angels' only hit. Verlander (15-5) was trying for his third career no-hitter and second this season.

"Even when we were playing catch before the game, I knew the ball felt really good coming out of my hand," he said. "I knew it was going to come down to a couple swings one way or the other, and I wanted to be on the right side."

Verlander's dominant outing was almost overshadowed by a feud between Weaver and Carlos Guillen.

Weaver (14-5) was ejected for throwing a pitch over Alex Avila's head in the seventh, right after Carlos Guillen showboated on a solo home run—infuriating the right-hander.

Guillen flipped his bat, posed at the plate and skipped a few steps sideways, prompting Weaver to yell at him before Guillen rounded the bases.



AP

Detroit Tigers starter Justin Verlander pitches against the Los Angeles Angels in the seventh inning of a baseball game on Sunday, July 31, 2011, in Detroit. Verlander took a no-hitter into the eighth inning when the Angel's Maicer Izturis singled. The Tigers defeated the Angels, 3-2.

Red Sox 5, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Dustin Pedroia hit a go-ahead two-run single in the seventh, Jason Varitek homered and the Red Sox beat the White Sox to win their weekend series at U.S. Cellular Field.

Alfredo Aceves (7-1), who relieved starter Andrew Miller in the sixth, pitched a scoreless inning to get the victory.

Blue Jays 7, Rangers 3

In Toronto, Brandon Morrow struck out a season-high 11 to win for the third time in four starts, leading Toronto the victory.

During the game, the AL West-leading Rangers obtained more help for their bullpen when they acquired right-hander Mike Adams from San Diego for minor league pitchers Robbie Erlin and Joe Wieland.

Yankees 4, Orioles 2

In New York, Brett Gardner hit a bases-loaded triple to power New York to its third consecutive win.

Freddy Garcia (10-7) struck out six in six innings to send the Yankees to 22 games over .500, their highest point of the season.

Royals 5, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Danny Duffy pitched into the sixth inning while subbing for the injured Kyle Davies and Jeff Francoeur and Alex Gordon homered for Kansas City.

The Indians lost for the eighth time in 10 games, but learned their trade with Colorado for pitcher Ubaldo Jimene became official after he passed a physical.

Rays 8, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Tampa Bay's Jeremy Hellickson held Seattle to a run and five hits over seven-plus innings to become the first AL rookie with 10 wins.

Hellickson (10-7) carried a no-hitter into the sixth but Chone Figgins, batting .184, opened with a single to center and Franklin Gutierrez followed with another single.

Athletics 7, Twins 3

In Oakland, Coco Crisp keyed Oakland's offense with two hits and three stolen bases.

Ryan Sweeney drove in two runs and Brandon McCarthy threw six effective innings for the A's, who have won five of seven.

Phillies 6, Pirates 5

In Philadelphia, Raul Ibanez homered twice and hit the game-winning double in the 10th inning to lift the Philadelphia Phillies to a 6-5 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Sunday.

The Phillies trailed 5-3 in the eighth when Ibanez hit a two-run shot for his second homer of the game. He doubled to right off Tony Watson (0-2) in the 10th to score Hunter Pence and help the Phillies complete a three-game sweep.

Reds 9, Giants 0

In Cincinnati, Johnny Cueto pitched a three-hitter, Joey Votto had a three-run homer and tied his career high with five RBIs, and Cincinnati completed a three-game sweep of San Francisco.

Todd Frazier hit his first career home run and Drew Stubbs had a career-best four hits as the Reds rebounded from being swept by the New York Mets in four games to post three consecutive wins for the first time since sweeping the Los Angeles Dodgers from June 13-15.

Marlins 3, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Ricky Nolasco scattered 12 hits, Emilio Bonifacio homered and Florida handed the Atlanta Braves the 10,000th loss in franchise history.

The Braves began the day savoring a deadline trade for speedy outfielder Michael Bourn, acquired from Houston in a five-player deal.

Diamondbacks 6, Dodgers 3

In Los Angeles, Joe Saunders came within four outs of his second straight complete game, Gerardo Parra homered twice and the surging Arizona Diamondbacks beat Los Angeles.

Ryan Roberts also homered for the Diamondbacks, who won for the 10th time in 15 games. Coupled with San Francisco's loss at Cincinnati, the victory helped them climb within two games of the NL West-leading Giants heading into their three-game showdown starting Monday night in the Bay Area.

Cubs 6, Cardinals 3

In St. Louis, Starlin Castro and Marlon Byrd had key hits as Chicago broke up Jake Westbrook's perfect game with a four-run sixth inning and held off St. Louis to avoid a three-game sweep.

Lance Berkman's three-run homer in the bottom of the sixth made it interesting for the Cardinals, who completed a disappointing 4-3 homestand against the two worst teams in the NL Central. They trail the first-place Brewers by 2 1/2 games heading into a three-game series in Milwaukee on Monday.

Nationals 3, Mets 2

In Washington, Rick Ankiel scored on Ian Desmond's chopper up the middle in the bottom of the ninth inning, giving Washington a win over New York on a scorcher of a summer afternoon.

With runners on second and third and the infield in, Desmond bounced the ball over pitcher Bobby Parnell (3-3), who deflected it with his glove. Second baseman Willie Harris' throw was too late to get Ankiel.

Brewers 5, Astros 4

In Milwaukee, Prince Fielder drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth and Milwaukee beat Houston to complete a three-game sweep.

Jonathan Lucroy and Yuniesky Betancourt drove in two runs apiece for the NL Central leaders.

Milwaukee (60-49) tied its season-best six-game winning streak and moved 11 games over .500 for the first time in more than two years to maintain its division lead over St. Louis.

Padres 8, Rockies 3

In San Diego, Jesus Guzman drove in three, including the go-ahead run in a six-run eighth inning, as San Diego avoided a three-game sweep with a victory over Colorado.

Guzman's single off Matt Belisle came on a day when San Diego traded setup man Mike Adams and outfielder Ryan Ludwick just before the non-waiver deadline.

Boston Red Sox acquire Bedard in 3-team trade

CHICAGO (AP) -- After a deal with Oakland for Rich Harden fell through, the AL East-leading Boston Red Sox were still able to find a starting pitcher to bolster their rotation Sunday.

They got oft-injured lefty Erik Bedard from the Seattle Mariners in a three-team trade before the deadline. Bedard's stint with the Mariners has been problematic but his years in Baltimore were strong ones. And that's the pitcher the Red Sox hope they will eventually see.

"All starting pitchers in the big leagues have nicks and knacks on them," Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein said Sunday in a conference call.

"Erik's case, he has injuries in his past like most starting pitchers, but the first half he was throwing the ball well and he certainly looks to be on his way back to form."

The Red Sox, whose deal for Harden fell apart late Saturday night, also got right-hander Josh Fields, a 2008 first-round draft pick.

Boston first sent minor league right-handers Stephen Fife and Juan Rodriguez and catcher Tim Federowicz to the Dodgers in exchange for outfielder Trayvon Robinson and then traded Robinson to Seattle with minor league outfielder Chih-Hsien Chiang in exchange for Bedard and Fields.

Boston needs some insurance with starter Clay Buchholz sidelined by back problems.

"We thought, looking at our club, that we certainly need to add a starting pitcher, if nothing else, for depth purposes. That was the best way we could impact club right now," Epstein said.

"We like the starting pitching we have, but there are health questions with (Buchholz). That would be a really nice way to improve the club. We were out looking at every available starter," Epstein added. "It wasn't clear we were going to be able to get anything done until the last minute." Epstein continued: "We're glad not just to get any starting pitcher, but a guy who is capable of shutting down any lineup in the league when he's right, and can pitch big games down the stretch. He has the talent to take the mound in a pennant race if the opportunity presents itself."

Red Sox manager Francona remembers facing Bedard when he was dealing for the Orioles.

"He was real tough on us," Francona said.

"He's a guy who has shown he can pitch in the American League East. First half of the year before he tweaked that knee he was pretty solid," Francona said. "His stuff was good. We're excited."

Francona said he would talk to Bedard before lining up his rotation for the coming week.

"We'll kind of build him back up," Francona said. "He just came off the DL Friday. We'll build him back up and get him in there."

Second baseman Dustin Pedroia, who had a key two-run single in Sunday's 5-3 win over the Chicago White Sox, was told of the trade after the victory.

"Oh, right on. Awesome. He's got great stuff," Pedroia said.

"He's going to help us a ton. We've had some injuries on our pitching staff, so we need a guy to come in here and help," Pedroia said. "Hopefully he does a great job for us. We're excited to have him. It's going to be a fun rest of the season."

A day earlier, the Red Sox added some infield depth by acquiring Mike Aviles from Kansas City.

Bedard, who is 4-7 in 16 starts with a 3.45 ERA this season for the Mariners, wasn't so good against an AL East team on Friday when he faced Tampa.

He showed the effects of his 32-day layoff after going on DL with a sprained left knee. He threw 57 pitches in just 1 1-3 innings and was tagged for five runs and three hits, walking four and striking out two.

The Mariners had sent Baltimore five players for Bedard before the 2008 season but he has struggled because of injuries.

2011 SBA Budweiser 8-Ball League Winners

Photos by WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



Members of IT&E Incredibles pose with their runner-up trophies in the Agingan division.



Utopia Sports Bar's Docomo Hustlers pose for a group photo after receiving their third place trophies.



USSP Peleiu Club's Fotten Palau members show their runner-up trophies.



Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's Shark Attack players pose with their third-place trophies.



VFW Post 3457's X-Tream players receive the Sportsmanship Award.



Jerry Soriano of Utopia Sports Bar, right, accepts a plaque of appreciation from Pacific Amusement general manager Jim Gebhard.



IT&E Incredibles' Chester Hamoy, right, and IT&E Voyagers' Rolly Villanueva receive the MVP honors in the Agingan division during the Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball League awards banquet last Sunday at Charlie's Cabaret in Pacific Islands Club.



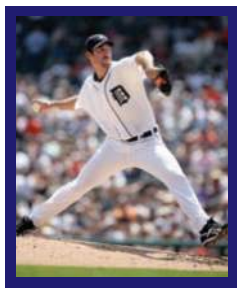
Chester Cuento of Obyan's X-Tream receives the "Run the Rack" trophy for the Obyan division.



Melvin Tenorio of competition sponsor, Marpac, delivers a brief message to players.



Shark Attack's Patrick Taitano, left, and Fotten Palau's Arnel Orbita get the MVP awards in the Obyan division.



Verlander nears no-hitter in Tigers win

Saipan Tribune
Sports

From jail to Jets, Burress finds a new home

24



Blowout wins in UFO opening

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Cabalen/Noni and UPAA/Hoopaholics followed VisMinda/Satbati's lead after routing separates foes in the last two games played during the opening day of the UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League 2011 Bud Cup at the TSL Sports Complex Sunday night.

Cabalen/Noni played in the second match and crushed NMBA/Mix Blood, 114-64. In the third and last game, the Hoopaholics also cruised to an easy win over MDX/Blue Haus, 78-53. Earlier in the opening game at the Civic Center Basketball Court, VisMinda/Satbahi stunned defending champion MAFEA/Ali'i Konflikt, 87-74.

A jackrabbit start gave Cabalen-Noni a big

See BLOWOUT on Page 26



UPAA/Hoopaholics' Dave Sablan, center, goes for a reverse layup against MDX/Blue Haus' Zack Diaz, left, and Ben Lisua, during the second game in the opening day of the UFO caging Sunday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Heo drops first match in Slovakia Futures

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former CNMI top junior tennis player Ji Hoon Heo continued to struggle in clay after dropping his first game in the Slovakia F1 Futures 2011 yesterday in Piestany, Slovak Republic.

Heo was entered in the qualifying draw of the 64-player field and lost to Slovak's Michal Milko in straight sets. The CNMI bowed in the first set, 2-6, and failed to extend the game after suffering another defeat in the second set, 1-6.

With the win, Milko advanced to the 32-player main draw and will be pitted against the No. 13 seed Mateausz Szmigiel of Poland in the first round, while Heo awaits the doubles draw.

The tournament in Slovak Republic wrapped up Heo's month-long European tour. He had been to Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Germany, and Czech Republic and competed in several tournaments there, including the ATP and clay tournament in Lauchseeweg, Austria. Heo joined both the doubles and singles event in Austria and bowed out in the opening round.

See HEO on Page 26

Mieko, Butch lead SCA bike race winners



Sublemente

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Familiar faces crossed the finish line first in the Saipan Cyclers Association MTB & Road Race II last Sunday at Paupau Beach.

In the men's division, Butch Sublemente, who dominated a couple of local races in the past months, completed the MTB full course race in 47 minutes and 58 seconds to beat Lewie Tenorio (49:05), Anthony Aguilar (49:51), and 13 other riders in event.

In the women's division, Mieko Carey joined her first local race since returning to Saipan after a runner-up finish in Kaike Triathlon last month and timed in at 52:38 to beat Susan Marchitti (1:10:26). Carey placed fourth overall among 18 riders who joined the MTB long course race that started at Paupau and then bikers headed to Banzai trail, Cowtown, Santa Clause lane (Grotto trail), and Autobahn and Kimikaze trails. They turned left, went down to the road heading to Suicide cliff, turned left again on the jeep road behind the golf course, turned right on the trail that led to the road to the golf course (before the million gallon tank), turned another left at the bottom of the hill, and headed back to Paupau.

In the short course, youth biker Erico Castro came out on top of 26 others, submitting 41:19. Arnel Cruz (41:45) and Ronald Lanuzo (41:51) completed the Top 3. In the women's division, Reginal Sebial finished first at 52:48, beating Joan Salazar (57:07) and Ester Ada (57:41).

The MTB short course had the same starting line but after the Santa Clause lane, riders tuned right on the pave road and then back to Paupau.

Last Sunday's MTB division also had competition for beginners with Erwin Calage ruling a field of 14 riders after clocking in at 35:20. Biteregor Agbon and Ariel Lansangan rounded out the Top 3 in the men's division after posting 35:32 and 37:14, re-

See MIEKO on Page 26



Carey

Rotary league opens door to female players



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Party Rockers' Rachel Abrams, second right, towers above Mix-A-Lot defenders during their title game in the TSL women's caging last week at the TSL Sports Complex. Abrams and other players in the league are invited to join this month's Rotary caging.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 20th Annual Rotary Club Youth Basketball League is aiming to have two girls teams in the U15 division.

Elias Rangamar, vice president of the organizing Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands, announced during the awards ceremony for the 2011 TSL Women's Summer Basketball League that female players will be allowed to compete against U15 teams in the Rotary caging.

"We encouraged our female players to continue playing by joining the two girls teams we will form and enter in the U15 division of the Rotary league," Rangamar said.

The women's caging drew four teams—champion Mix-A-Lot, runner-up Party Rockers, third place Lazy Buttsss, and Aye Par Battay. Players in these four teams are from different age groups, but they can still compete in the Rotary caging even if they are not in the U15 bracket. Rangamar added that BANMI is also planning to hold another competition for female players once those off-island are back on Saipan.

Besides the U15 division, this year's Rotary caging will have the centerpiece U18 age group competition. BANMI is also looking to host U13 and U16 leagues.

The Rotary caging is scheduled to open tentatively this

See ROTARY on Page 26